

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WHO DO WE FIGHT?

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, who do we fight against? We have been at war in Iraq and Afghanistan for years. We heard that we are fighting a war on terror. But what does that mean? Who are the people at war with America?

Now, after all this time, our government has decided we must have a politically correct name for our enemy. No longer can we use the term "Jihadist," the primary meaning being a holy war to subject the world to Islam. After all, using that term might hurt our enemies' feelings.

And certainly the most accurate term, "Islamofascists," is strictly taboo because it might further anger our enemies by insinuating they are a bit radical when they murder in the name of religion.

So the government insists that we call the bad guys "extremists" or "terrorists." The term terrorist is so general it could cover a multitude of individuals. My neighbor sometimes calls my Dalmatians "terrorists". Does that mean our country is at war with my dogs? I really hope not. The term "extremists" could be applied to Global Warming Advocates, Health enthusiasts, NASCAR fanatics or anyone with strong opinions. Are we fighting all these people?

Those terms: extremists and terrorists are so vague they don't indicate the war against us is waged in the name of a radical Muslim religious doctrine. But isn't that the reason for this war?

The term "Jihadist" is not a reflection on all Muslims. After all, many Muslims are literally fighting these radical ideas.

In a war, we must specifically define our enemy. Otherwise, we don't know who they are or why they fight.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO RICK KUHLMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mr. Rick Kuhlman, the principal of Fort Dodge Senior High in Fort Dodge, Iowa. I also want to express my appreciation for Rick's dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

For the past 34 years Mr. Kuhlman has contributed his time and his talents to improving youths' lives through education and mentoring. Mr. Kuhlman began as a physical education and health teacher with the Fort Dodge School District in 1974. He later became assistant principal of the high school from 1987 until

1999, when he was named the principal. During his career Mr. Kuhlman has been responsible for many accomplishments and successes, but the one that is most important to him was Fort Dodge Senior High being chosen as a model school in the State of Iowa, one of the first 20 schools in the State to receive such an honor.

Mr. Kuhlman's dedication to the Fort Dodge School District has touched the lives of the many students, families and faculty members he has worked with over the years. His leadership will certainly be missed, but his accomplishments will have a lasting impact on the community for years to come. I consider it an honor to represent Mr. Rick Kuhlman in the United States Congress, and I wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN JOHNSON COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Johnson County:

Forrest Sutton, Director, Emergency Management Agency

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff

Town Council, City of Edinburgh

Patrick Pankey, Chief of Police, City of Edinburgh

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Johnson County will be well served by these officials.

THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the sacrifice of the men and women who bravely served in the Korean War in defense of freedom. Today, June 25th, we commemorate the 58th anniversary of the start of the Korean War; the so-called 'Forgotten War', which claimed more than 36,000 American lives. Although the Korean War may receive less attention than other wars, it does not diminish the significance of the war and the freedom it preserved.

I proudly served my wartime tour in Korea as a member of the 503d Field Artillery Battalion of the 2d Infantry Division. The 503d Field Artillery Battalion landed in Korea in August 1950, arriving in time to participate in hard-fought battles that defeated the North Korean offensives against the United Nations forces on the Pusan Perimeter. During the battalion's 15 months in Korea, members of the 503d received 19 Silver Stars, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, and 79 Bronze Stars. The battalion suffered 512 casualties, including 150 men who died in Communist prison camps and 79 who remain listed as missing in action. The 503d, a Black unit, shattered the biased and unfair negative stereotypes attached to Black men and women fighting in Korea and earlier wars.

Although today is a solemn reminder of the lives that were lost during the Korean War; it also serves as a reminder of the binding friendship we have forged with the Korean people. As a phoenix rises from the ashes, so has the U.S.-Korean alliance.

Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the heart/felt comments from the wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial by the Korean Ambassador, The Honorable Tae-Sik Lee:

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY TAE-SIK LEE, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE KOREAN WAR, KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 25, 2008

Distinguished veterans, colleagues from the diplomatic corps, and honored guests:

June 25, 1950, began as a day like any other. But the consequences of that day, and the War that ensued, have left a lasting mark. Millions were killed, our country destroyed, our nation divided. Yet freedom-loving governments stepped forward, and alliances were formed.

In the brutal heat of summer, and the bitter grip of winter, over every kind of tough terrain—it was through countless individual acts of courage, sacrifice, and faith—that South Korea's freedom was preserved. We are here today to honor that courage, remember that sacrifice and, I hope, reward the faith of every fighting man and woman—from 21 nations around the globe—who served to keep us free.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Far too numerous to mention—but far too important to forget—we remember and honor these heroes, not just today, but every day.

Some may say that the Korean War has been known as the Forgotten War. But it has been my personal mission to try to rectify that—as I have met with thousands of veterans in dozens of cities across the country. And I know that, here today, I am among many allies in this effort to remember.

Clearly one of the most compelling monuments to the veterans of this War is this moving memorial on the national mall. I recently saw an interesting statistic—a list of the top most-visited National Park Service memorials. As you might expect, Arlington National Cemetery is first, followed by the World War II and Vietnam memorials. But the Korean War Veterans Memorial has risen to number 4—averaging more than 3.2 million visitors per year.

I think people are remembering. And the priceless lesson that “Freedom Is Not Free” could not be more appropriate today.

For Korea, freedom has meant the chance to energize our economy; institutionalize democracy; and join the responsible community of nations. Today, we are proud to do our part in the war on terror, in peace-keeping operations, and in international economic and social organizations as well. With the United States, we are working to transform our alliance for the challenges of the future—building on the legacy of such forward-thinking leaders as General Riscassi, General Tilleli and General Sennewald, who are here with us today.

To all our friends from other nations who answered our call for help—I would like to offer this verse from Ecclesiastes that says: “A faithful friend is a strong defense, and he that hath found him, hath found a treasure.” A friend in need is a friend indeed. Certainly, the generous spirit of your friendship we will continue to honor and treasure.

To the veterans here today, you are our heroes and we remember you. And we hope you believe that Korea was a country worth saving—a people worth protecting—and a war worth fighting. Thank you very much.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 9, 2008, I missed rollcall votes numbered 438, a resolution honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth; 439, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month, and 440, a resolution congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes numbered 438, 439, and 440.

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER: KAITLIN SURDOVAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding artistic talents of high school students from around our nation who have participated in the 2008 Congressional Art Competition: An Artistic Discovery.

For the past 27 years Congress has had the distinct pleasure of hosting this nationwide competition. I am very proud of the students who have participated in this competition, and I would like to specifically recognize the finalist from each of the four counties that make up New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District: Kaitlin Surdoval of Warren County, Megan Dreisbach from Sussex County, Kaitlin Cibenko from Passaic County, and Megan Sherlock from Bergen County.

Of these four finalists, Kaitlin Surdoval placed first for the entire district. Her outstanding artistic talent is truly remarkable and I am proud that her art will be displayed for the upcoming year here in our nation's capitol, representing New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District.

I am also pleased to recognize the hard work of the Art Societies that have been so instrumental in the organization and judging of the Competition in my district: the Sussex County Art Society, the Sussex-Warren Art Society, the Ringwood Manor Art Association, and the Bergen Museum of Art and Science.

In addition to the tremendous support of the art societies, citizens and businesses around the fifth district have been wonderfully supportive of the Art Competition and Kaitlin Surdoval. I would like to recognize James McCracken of the House of the Good Shepherd, Michael Alfano from the Borough of Ramsey, and Sal Risalvato of the New Jersey Gasoline-C-store-Automotive Association for their generous donations to assist Ms. Surdoval with her travel to Washington, DC for the celebration of the culmination of this year's Competition.

I am very pleased to be able to support this Competition which brings together so many citizens of the Fifth District to celebrate our talented youth.

HONORING CHESTER GOSPEL CHURCH

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chester Gospel Church in Charlotte, Michigan on the celebration of its sixtieth anniversary. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate Chester Gospel Church on behalf of all of those in south-central Michigan who have benefited from its steadfast commitment to faith, service and prayer.

Chester Gospel Church began to serve the Charlotte community in 1958 under the leader-

ship of Pastor Merritt Johnson, and the church occupied a one room schoolhouse at that time. Over the years, Chester Gospel has undergone numerous renovations to its original building in order to accommodate its flourishing membership. Chester Gospel now serves over one hundred members with its sister church, Bright Hope Bible Church, in Potterville, Michigan.

A spirit of humility and service has always been a mark of Chester Gospel Church as its congregation constantly seeks ways to reach out to the Michigan community. Roughly five years ago, Chester Gospel sent out six families to found the Bright Hope Bible Church in Potterville. In addition, each month Chester Gospel volunteers at the City Rescue Mission in Lansing, serving women and children at the Family Center. Chester Gospel has dedicated the entire month of August to Missions, and during the month, speakers come from all corners of the world to share the challenge of spreading the love of the Lord Jesus. Additionally, the church hosts Vacation Bible School each summer to encourage children's faith and promote the fellowship and love that is found throughout the halls of Chester Gospel Church.

In celebration of its sixtieth anniversary, Chester Gospel Church will be hosting a homecoming celebration. Four previous pastors of the church will be in attendance, including Pastors Merritt Johnson (1958–63), Elwood Norton (1966–70), Larry Pike (1971–82), and Barry Smith (1982–93). Currently, Pastor Marc S. Livingston faithfully leads Chester Gospel Church. The anniversary celebration includes a time for prayer, fellowship and sharing memories of the church's long and devoted history to service.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chester Gospel Church on the celebration of its sixtieth anniversary. May others know of my high regard for the inspiring faith of this vibrant church, as well as my best wishes for Chester Gospel Church and its congregation in the future.

IN MEMORY OF HAZEL HARVEY PEACE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, rise today to honor Hazel Harvey Peace, a longtime friend of District 12 and a Fort Worth icon, who passed from this life on June 8, 2008, at the age of 100.

Hazel Harvey Peace, while small in physical stature, was a giant of a Texan who had a huge influence not only on the individuals who were fortunate enough to come within her sphere of influence during her long and fruitful life, but on her community, the state and the country. A native of Fort Worth, Hazel Harvey Peace was born on August 4, 1907 at a time when segregation was still alive and when opportunities for African Americans were still limited. Hazel Harvey Peace always exhibited that she was a special person. By the age of 13, she graduated from Fort Worth Colored High School, which later was renamed I.M. Terrell High School. By the age of 16, Mrs. Peace earned a bachelor's degree from Howard University, located in Washington, DC.

She returned to Fort Worth to join the staff of her alma mater, I.M. Terrell High School, where she was a teacher and administrator for 46 years before retiring, for the first time. After her I.M. Terrell High School career, Mrs. Peace served nine years as the student affairs director and the financial aid coordinator of Bishop College in Dallas before retiring a second time. During her teaching career, Mrs. Peace earned a masters degree from Columbia University and did subsequent graduate work at other universities.

While Hazel Harvey Peace may have retired from her professional career twice, she never retired from teaching, mentoring and kindly encouraging her former students, her neighbors, and her community. The cornerstone of her message and teaching was simple but powerful: attain the best education possible and always conduct yourself properly in your personal and professional lives. Generations of students fondly recall Mrs. Peace dedicating herself to arming them with knowledge that would enable each to be successful at whatever they chose in life, while also stressing what one student describes as "proper conduct, proper diction, proper vocabulary, proper dress and proper carriage." Likewise, generations of community leaders, mayors, council members, city managers and other public stewards were the recipients of her wise counsel and of her vision to make the City of Fort Worth, the State of Texas and the United States of America a better place for generations to come. She rose to become the great dame of Fort Worth not because of wealth, not because of powerful position and not because of her station in life. Rather, she became one of the most influential women in Fort Worth's history because of her determination and dedication to inspire.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Peace worked tirelessly not only for her students and the community's youth, but for the entire community. Her involvement included serving as co-chair for the City's Committee for the 150th Anniversary of Fort Worth, chairwoman of the Near Southeast Neighborhood Advisory Council and the United Community Centers, as well as service on other organizations such as the Tarrant County Housing Partnership, YWCA, Fort Worth Chapter of the NAACP and Women's Policy Forum Management Committee. Her numerous awards included Tarrant County Junior College Northeast Campus President's Cup Award, The Black Awareness Better Life Award, the Fort Worth School District's Distinguished Alumni Award and the Fort Worth Outstanding Women Award. In 2002 she was honored by being selected to be an Olympic Torchbearer as the torch made its way through Fort Worth.

Because of her dedication to education and her belief that excellent libraries go hand in hand with education, the City of Fort Worth Central Library named its children's section the Hazel Harvey Peace Children's Library in 2002. To honor her life work, former students, friends and corporate citizens raised more than \$350,000 in 2004 to create a Hazel Harvey Peace professorship at the University of North Texas in Denton, the first endowed professorship in Texas to be named for an African American woman at a four-year, publicly supported university.

Our city, our state and our county are much better as a result of the life work of a wonderful, loving and dedicated woman—Hazel Harvey Peace.

She will live forever in the thousands upon thousands of people she touched, from her students and children throughout the community, to her neighbors and public stewards. She will be missed but not forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MAX GUSTAFSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Max Gustafson for his longtime service to the community of Perry, Iowa. He recently earned the 2008 Civil Servant of the Year award from the local Rotary Club as well as special recognition by the Firefighters Association for his 53 years of service with the Perry Fire Department.

Soon after serving over four years in the Army with the 1st Tank Company in the 34th Division, 133rd Infantry, Max began volunteering with Perry Fire Department. During his 53 years of service, Max served as fire chief for 10 years, and at the age of 93, Max continues to be active with the Perry Fire Department by contributing his mechanical skills. On his 90th birthday, he chose to celebrate by climbing to the top of the ladder on the ladder truck. Max has dedicated an immense amount of his time to the people of Perry and he is living proof that you are never too old to serve the community you love.

Max's loyalty to the Perry Fire Department and community has earned him a great deal of admiration, and his service deserves to be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Max Gustafson in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing him the best as he continues to serve the town of Perry and set a positive example for all to follow.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS AT CAMP ATTERBURY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as government officials and military leaders at Camp Atterbury Joint Forces Maneuver Training Center, an important Army National Guard training site in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor Governor Mitch Daniels and his administration, as well as these outstanding individuals in the Indiana National Guard for their yeoman's work on behalf of Camp Atterbury:

Major General R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant General

Brigadier General Clif Tooley, Assistant Adjutant General

Colonel Barry Richmond, Post Commander
Lieutenant Colonel Ronald A. Morris, Deputy Post Commander

This area suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving lives and serving the personnel working at their post.

Madam Speaker, as Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the military and civilian personnel of Camp Atterbury will be well served by these leaders.

HONORING LOYD AND PHYLLIS MUSGRAVE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Loyd and Phyllis Musgrave, who are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary.

Loyd and Phyllis Musgrave grew up in southeastern Colorado. Both of their families were homesteaders, living in a small community about 25 miles south of Fort Morgan. They met as children, when attending Sunday school together in a one-room schoolhouse. Later, both attended Fort Morgan High School.

Phyllis laughingly recalls that Loyd proposed to her several times, but each time she told him "I'll have to talk to my mother about that." When she finally did get around to speaking to her mom, he didn't bring up the subject again. She became impatient and decided to broach the subject herself "Loyd has always teased me that I proposed to him," Phyllis says.

On May 27, 1938, only one day after Phyllis graduated from high school, they were married. Afterwards, they moved to a farm near Hoyt, Colorado, and by the late 1940s, they completed the house where they continue to live today.

Loyd and Phyllis have 2 sons, Jerard and Larry, who both live in Colorado, 6 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Phyllis recalls all the fun that she and Loyd have had together over the years. "We did a lot of traveling," she said, including trips to Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii. The only states they haven't explored are Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

The couple's life motto is Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." They have always been active in their local church, and today they remain involved in Hoyt Community Sunday School.

I want to congratulate Loyd and Phyllis Musgrave on their 70 years of marriage, and to thank them for the blessing they have been to their family and community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NANCY SUTTON

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Mrs. Nancy Sutton, as she

celebrates her 93rd birthday on June 29. Mrs. Sutton is a selfless volunteer who constantly puts others ahead of herself. She is a valuable asset to Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Sutton worked hard during her long and varied career, which included working in retail in Uniontown. Following her retirement, she began to volunteer at her local Social Security Office during the 1980s and 1990s for a period of over 10 years. She still actively volunteers for the American Cancer Society, where she has volunteered for many years. In addition, Mrs. Sutton has been an active member of the Marshall Manor Resident Council since she became a resident in February 1973. She has served as president of the council and has coordinated and cooked monthly dinners for the manor's residents. Mrs. Sutton helps her fellow residents by driving them to medical appointments, picking up prescriptions, and helping with grocery shopping.

Mrs. Sutton was appointed as the tenant representative to the Fayette County Housing Authority's Board of Directors on February 8, 2001. She has served as the secretary of the board since her appointment.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Nancy Sutton is truly a great and caring American. I wish to end my remarks by congratulating her on her 93rd birthday and for all of her community accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MAURICE A. CALDERON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the Inland Empire in California are exceptional. The Inland Empire has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Maurice Calderon is one of these individuals. On June 27, 2008, there will be a ceremony for Maurice as he retires from the position of vice president of minority development at Arrowhead Credit Union in San Bernardino, California.

Born and raised in Banning, California, Maurice learned the rich traditions and values of his Hispanic heritage and has used those lessons throughout his professional life. This treasured background guided Mr. Calderon in his unwavering commitment of professional and public service to the people of the Inland Empire. An elected school board member for 9 years in Banning, followed by an elective seat as a Mount San Jacinto Community College district trustee for another 9 years, Mr. Calderon was in the wonderful position of public service.

Maurice is an active member of numerous business, education, and community groups. He is a member of both the Inland Empire Hispanic, and African American, Chambers of Commerce. He is a member of the board of trustees of the University of California, Riverside Foundation, and the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation. Maurice is also a director for the Inland Empire Economic Partner-

ship, president of Sinfonia Mexicana and chairman of the Inland Empire Hispanic Leadership Council.

Maurice has been honored to receive many awards from community and service groups over the years including "Father of the Year" from the city of Banning. He has also received "Citizen of the Year" from the city of Beaumont and Phi Delta Kappa, Riverside. Maurice was named the inaugural "Hispanic of the Year" and "Influential Latino of the Year" in 1998 by the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber, and Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine, respectively. Mr. Calderon was also named "Influential Latino of the Year" and was a distinguished medal recipient for the Northside Impact Committee of Redlands in 1996. Maurice was also the inaugural recipient of the California Credit Union League Diversity Award, and was named to the Southern California Native American and Latino Hall of Fame. In April of 2004, Maurice was honored as the recipient of the 2004 Reconocimiento Ohtli Award, an award given by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which recognizes those who have proven their excellence, are role models for the society, and have contributed most successfully to the well-being of the communities of Mexican origin in the United States. Maurice was awarded the Black Rose Award for 2004 from the San Bernardino Black Culture Foundation for his dedication and service to the community. On September 1, 2005, the city of Banning acknowledged Maurice Calderon and the entire Calderon family for over 100 years of community service by naming a street Calderon Way in their honor. In November of 2005, Maurice received the California Credit Union League PAC 2005 Advocate of the Year Award during the League's annual meeting in Anaheim, California. In 2008 Maurice received the Sinfonia Mexicana Award for Service for serving as president from 2001 to 2008. In May of 2008 Maurice received the Esperanza Award from the California Chicano News Media Association.

Mr. Calderon has received certificates from the University of Georgia and Indiana University in savings and loan graduate programs. He also received an associate of arts degree from Mount San Jacinto College with honors. Married to Dorothy Calderon for 47 wonderful years, Maurice has two children and four grandchildren. Maurice's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire. I am proud to call Maurice a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

IN HONOR OF DEAN CARMEN TWILLIE AMBAR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of Dean Carmen Twillie Ambar. I join with President Richard L. McCormick and all of Rutgers University in honoring Dean Ambar for her outstanding tenure at Douglass and for her recent appointment as President of the Cedar Crest College.

During her tenure as dean of Douglass, Dean Ambar demonstrated her commitment to the educational advancement of women by leading the fight to save Douglass College. Dedicated to women's success and leadership, Douglass is a unique institution that has enabled countless young women to receive an excellent education and fulfill their potential as leaders in public service, academia, and business.

In addition, Dean Ambar's exemplary service and dedication to Douglass was evident in her pursuit of women's global leadership. Dean Ambar spearheaded programs that showcased and promoted women's leadership skills and encouraged young women to pursue careers in math, science, and technology.

Madam Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Dean Ambar for her invaluable contributions to Douglass and the greater Rutgers University community.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN HENRY COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Henry County:

Ronald D. Huffman, Director, Emergency Management Agency
Bruce Baker, Sheriff
Jim Small, Mayor, City of New Castle
James E. Nicholson, Chief of Police, City of New Castle

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Henry County will be well served by these officials.

ON KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL DAY, AMERICA IS URGED TO REMEMBER THE FORGOTTEN WAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act in the United States House of

Representatives to honor the great sacrifices and contributions made by the Korean War veterans to preserve our freedom.

Fifty-eight years have passed since its outbreak on June 25, 1950, yet the Korean War has never formally ended. In lieu of a peace treaty, a cease-fire armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, leaving in its wake 4 million military and civilian casualties. H.R. 6363 will commemorate the Korean War Armistice Day by displaying the flag at half-staff in remembrance and recognition of the Korean War veterans and a war that has yet to end.

The truest heroes of the Korean War are the thousands who served without question and never returned home to their loved ones. This bill is to honor them, especially, as well as to salute their comrades who placed themselves in harm's way in defense of their country. Even as we place this spotlight on the fighting men and women in the Forgotten War, I also wish to remember the tens of thousands of families, both Americans and Koreans, who suffered through this bloody conflict.

Indeed, the Korean War was one of the bloodiest wars fought in one of the coldest winters. In just 3 years, the United States suffered 54,246 casualties and 8,176-plus POW/MIAs. A total of 26 nations were involved in the War (22 UN Allied, 1 Support; 3 Communist); yet few people understand that the lingering effects of the Korean War and the resulting stalemate continue to impact our world today.

Sandwiched between World War II and the Vietnam War, the Korean War is often overlooked in the public consciousness and often referenced as the 'Forgotten War'. The courageous service and sacrifice of our Korean War veterans must never be forgotten and deserves to be honored. Let us remember the 6.8 million American men and women who served during the Korean War period, June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955. Only 2 million are surviving today and nearly 1,000 die each day.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SANDY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Sandy for reaching an important milestone of 60 years as a public servant to the people of Warren County, Iowa.

For the past 60 years Bob has honorably served Warren County. His work with the county began when Bob took a job as a surveyor and bridge inspector for the county engineer's department at the age of 19. In 1953 he earned a degree in civil engineering from Iowa State University. Five years later, in 1958, he was hired as the county engineer and remained in that position until 1997. In the following year, Bob was elected to the Warren County Board of Supervisors and is currently serving his third term.

When Bob began working for the county, there were no paved roads in the entire county. Over 150 miles of roads were paved while Bob was the engineer. His friends say his success has come from getting along with, and earning the respect of those around him, including those who have shared their dif-

ferences. In addition to his work with the county, Bob was a widely recognized and regarded sports announcer for local high school and Simpson College athletics with KBAB radio for 30 years. He also was the president of the Little League Association for many years.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Bob Sandy for his six decades of leadership and service to Warren County. I consider it an honor to represent him in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future service.

HONORING THE EYE CENTER OF LENAWEE

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of the Eye Center of Lenawee. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate the optometrists, both present and past, who have served the eye care needs of the Lenawee community over the past one hundred years. From its founding optometrist, Dr. J Berris, to today's practice that boasts three doctors and nine staff members, the Eye Center of Lenawee has long been a familiar and trusted business in Lenawee County, Michigan.

The history of the Eye Center of Lenawee is full of quality care and dedication to the Lenawee County community. The eye care center was established in 1908 by a Canadian immigrant, Dr. J Berris, in Adrian, Michigan next to the Crosswell Opera House. Over the years, the practice passed through generations of highly qualified optometrists. In 1939, Dr. Robert Birmingham bought the practice and hired an associate, Dr. Robert Davis. In the late 1940s, Dr. Davis moved the eye care center to Maple Avenue. Upon Dr. Birmingham's retirement in 1979, Dr. Edward Schenkel, former Air Force optometrist, entered the practice and eventually became a partner with Dr. Davis. The center was moved to larger quarters when the Adrian Optometrists merged with Dr. Rick Allan Snow's practice in 1986. Shortly after the merge the name was changed to Eye Center of Lenawee, P.C. Today, the Eye Center of Lenawee has three resident optometrists, partners Dr. Rick Allan Snow and Dr. Jodi Kordyzon, and associate Dr. Kelli Lambert.

The Eye Center of Lenawee offers extensive and state-of-the-art eye care services for both adults and children. Services range from routine eye examinations and contact lenses, to treatment of eye injuries and laser vision correction. In addition to the numerous treatment options, the Eye Center of Lenawee is renowned for its knowledgeable and friendly staff that readily assists patients with scheduling appointments, arranging insurance coverage and the proper fitting of their eyewear. Over the past one hundred years, the Eye Center of Lenawee has never swerved from its firm commitment to first-rate patient service.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Eye Center of Lenawee for one hundred years of respected business and outstanding service to Lenawee

County. May others know of my high regard for the exceptional quality of this business, as well as my best wishes for the Eye Center of Lenawee in the future.

URGING REFORM OF OUR INEPT IMMIGRATION LAWS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues to review, and subsequently ameliorate, the current state of immigration law. After the failure of this Congress to enact sensible, compassionate, and effective immigration reform last year, selective—and at times nonsensical—enforcement has been the rule. It has meant, in the face of inaction and silence on the part of the Federal Government, fragmented and contradictory responses from local municipalities, ranging from establishing sanctuary cities to conducting incessant, violent, and sometimes illogical raids and deportations. Waiting is no longer a suitable solution, particularly not for those hardworking undocumented immigrants, free of any criminal record, who live every day in fear, and certainly not for those legal immigrants who committed long-ago misdemeanors and become victims to the fervor for increased deportations.

A New York CARIB News June 3 article, "Deportation Hanging Over West Indian's Head," reports the case of the deputy chief of staff to a prominent New York City Council member—a legal resident—who now faces deportation because of a minor drug offense he committed 20 years ago as an 18-year-old. The law was meant to apply to those immigrants who have committed serious offenses, but in today's climate, it is increasingly being used against persons convicted of rather small crimes, like shoplifting. These are legal residents, having now become model citizens, who have built lives in this country and have none elsewhere, committing small-time crimes years ago as teenagers and finding themselves in deportation proceedings. This is just one example of an American immigration system that proves illogical, demands fixing, and provides blanket judgment as opposed to reasoned case-by-case due process.

As we forestall meaningful action on immigration, good Americans suffer. I urge that we get back to work on this most imperative issue, and do what's right for this country and its residents.

HONORING ART CHAN

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arthur Chan, a dedicated staffer and an exceptional public servant, on his retirement from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Over the last 15 years, Art has undertaken a number of critical roles on the Committee, and has been integral to the passage of numerous landmark pieces of legislation designed to rebuild America. Throughout his

service, protecting the public interest was paramount to Art as he worked to develop transportation policy.

In 1993, Art joined what was then the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, serving as Chief Economist for the Full Committee under Chairman Norman Mineta. In the 104th Congress, Art made the transition to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment in order to focus on the passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Art quickly learned the intricacies of the Army Corps of Engineers programs and was instrumental in the enactment of the legislation. Art continued to play a key role on the subcommittee, and was vital to the passage of a number of water infrastructure bills. In 2003, Art took on the role of Highway Policy Director for the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, where he quickly became an expert on the Federal-aid highway program and was a lead negotiator during the creation of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the 2005 surface transportation legislation.

Prior to his public service, Art earned his Ph.D. in economics, master's degrees in both economics and political science, and his B.A., with distinction, all from the University of Nebraska. A true intellectual, Art stayed in academia, teaching students first at Boston University and then at New Mexico State University.

When Art began his public service, first with GAO and then with the Committee, his teaching experience was quickly apparent to all who worked with him. Art always found the time to share his knowledge with anyone who asked, from Members of Congress to new Committee staffers. Throughout his career, he developed a command of a range of issues spanning the Committee's jurisdiction.

Art's expertise is complemented by his dedication to defending the public interest. In his decade and a half of service, his first priority was always crafting sound public policy. The depth and breadth of his knowledge allowed Art to understand the benefits or shortfalls of the most complex legislative proposal, and to assess its potential impact on the users of our transportation system. The American public has been well-served by Art's insightful commitment to his work.

Art is a true believer in the intents and ideals of our transportation programs, and has always sought to protect and improve upon them. As anyone who has sat across from him at the negotiating table knows, Art is relentless in his efforts to achieve the best possible policy solutions to address our transportation challenges. His devotion to this pursuit and his attention to detail led to many long days and late nights in the legislative counsel's office, and is reflected in the high quality of the work he produced. His commitment to maintaining the integrity of our transportation infrastructure programs has been a hallmark of Art's service.

Madam Speaker, it is with wholehearted gratitude that I rise today to honor Art Chan's service to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to the House of Representatives, and to the United States. Art's institutional knowledge, insightful counsel, and tenacity have earned him the well-deserved respect of Members and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and he will be greatly missed. I wish Art continued happiness and success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MINDY DAUGHERTY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mindy Daugherty of Dallas Center, Iowa for earning the Hero of the Heartland honor presented by the Central Iowa chapter of the American Red Cross.

Mindy is a legal nurse consultant with Bradshaw Law Firm in Des Moines, but during her free time she volunteers with the Mid-Iowa Sexual Assault Response Team, where she is able to utilize her forensic nursing background. Her duties involved with being a member of the team include extensive hours of being on call to administer assistance to sexual abuse victims at any given time. When a patient is sexually assaulted, Mindy does a history, physical and collects DNA evidence for the patient. At the same time she has the difficult task of comforting and giving reassurance to distressed victims.

Mindy's willingness to utilize her strengths by volunteering and helping people involved in traumatic events is certainly an example to all of us. Her dedication to her community and commitment to serving those in a time of great need should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Mindy Daugherty in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in congratulating her on this honor and wishing her the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Bartholomew County:

Dennis Moats, Director, Emergency Management Agency

Mark Gorbett, Sheriff

Jim Bickel, CEO, Columbus Regional Hospital

Fred Armstrong, Mayor, City of Columbus

Jim Worton, Chief of Police, City of Columbus

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to

the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Bartholomew County will be well served by these officials.

IN HONOR OF DR. LEATRICE RABINSKY

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished member of the Jewish Community and a real role model in my life.

Dr. Leatrice B. Rabinsky, an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Literature at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies and a board member of the Ohio Council on Education, has recently retired after 25 years of dedicated service, teaching Ohio youth about the Holocaust at Cleveland Heights High School.

During her 25 years of service she pioneered Holocaust education and led eight "Journeys of Conscience" for students and survivors to the sights of the Holocaust in Europe and Israel.

I was privileged to be a student of Dr. Rabinsky. She instilled in me principles and knowledge that have had a lasting impact on my life. She shaped me as a person and as a public servant. One of my proudest moments as a state legislator in the Florida legislature was when we passed the Holocaust Education Act, legislation that I authored that mandated teaching about the lessons of the Holocaust in all of Florida's public schools. Because of this legislation, which grew out of Dr. Rabinsky's inspiration, more of America's children will know the consequences of bigotry and intolerance. Now, as a member of the United States Congress, and as the Chairman of the Congressional Taskforce Against Anti-Semitism, I continue to make Holocaust issues a priority.

I am sure that each and every one of our colleagues can identify a teacher from their past who left a significant mark on their lives. I know that I would not be where I am today without the motivation and encouragement of Dr. Rabinsky.

Finally, I would like to thank the Jewish National Fund for honoring Dr. Leatrice Rabinsky as a "Woman of Valor." She is a pillar in the Jewish community and, I am proud to honor her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RESPONSE TO THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VS. HELLER

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, I want to voice my support for the landmark Supreme Court decision to overturn the District of Columbia handgun ban. This was a long and hard-fought battle, one in which I signaled my support for the rights of gun owners by joining many of my colleagues in signing an

amicus brief supporting gun rights. In the end, the Court's decision affirmed that all citizens have the right to keep and bear arms.

I am pleased with this decision because now honest, law-abiding citizens of the District of Columbia, as well as those in Florida and across the Nation, can be assured of the right to self-protection in their homes. As a strong defender of our Second Amendment rights, I am glad to see this outcome from the Courts.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTECTIVES CO. 1 OF ROCHESTER, NY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Protectives Co. 1 of Rochester, New York as they approach their 150th anniversary. Ever since their formation on August 23, 1858 these volunteer citizens have spent thousands of hours a year protecting the property of their neighbors from fire, smoke and water damage thereby reducing the costs to the businesses and citizens of Rochester in their most distressing times.

Formed as part of a general reorganization of a fractured and dysfunctional Rochester Fire Department, the Protectives Property Protection and Salvage Company instilled a sense of security that the community it served had been missing. Before its inception, the citizens of Rochester relied on ten separate, and often bickering, fire departments to protect their homes and businesses from fires. The Protectives helped bring about a renewed commitment to protecting the community.

The original Protectives Property Protection and Salvage Company has not only saved countless dollars in property damage over the years, but has also saved the lives of many individuals and firefighters from out of control fires. The Protectives No. 1 operates as a volunteer unit under the Rochester Fire Department assisting them with salvage, ventilation, lighting and holding fire hoses as ordered by the fire Chief, thereby relieving the firefighting manpower at the scene of an active fire.

The Protectives have been there supporting the Greater Rochester community throughout some of its most trying times, including the Great Sibley Fire of 1904 which totaled 4 million dollars worth of damage at the time. And today they continue to work many of the most fundamental and underappreciated jobs including pumping out flooded basements, and setting up and operating fans and lighting during salvaging efforts. Each and every day they subscribe to their motto, "we strive to save."

The Greater Rochester Area owes them a debt of gratitude for their dedicated work and thousands of hours of volunteer services. So it is with great pride and appreciation that I congratulate the Protectives Co. 1 for 150 years of great service, and may it continue to serve as a model of volunteer service and community activism for the citizens of Rochester, NY and across America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF POINT ARENA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Point Arena on the Mendocino Coast in Northern California. Located along magnificently rugged headlands overlooking the Pacific Ocean to the west and bordered by redwood forests to the east, California's sixth smallest city (current population 501) is precariously "surrounded" by the San Andreas Fault and watched over by the stately Point Arena Lighthouse.

Self-described as a "town of booms and declines" Point Arena has survived three major fires and fueled a variety of enterprising possibilities. Historical anecdotes trace its heritage from the native Pomos to traders, lumberjacks and sea captains, from oil drillers and bootleggers to hippies and nuclear energy protestors.

Prior to 1906, Point Arena was the "busiest town between San Francisco and Eureka." More than 200,000 board feet of lumber came from the town mills. Point Arena was the main shipping port for agricultural products on the south Mendocino coast. After the earthquake in 1906 every brick building collapsed and every chimney and timbered dwelling came down.

In the meantime, William Hanon, the editor of the town newspaper, the Point Arena Record, was elected to a term in the state legislature. While there he saw money and services handed out to incorporated cities and wanted Point Arena to get a share. Due to his foresight and persistence tiny Point Arena became incorporated July 6, 1908.

By 1910 more than two dozen saloons graced the dirt road next to the headlands overlooking the Pacific. Until 1912 horse-drawn stagecoaches brought visitors and provisions. The main source of supplies, however, was the SS *Sea Foam* until it sank off the coast in 1931. A fire, started at the Grand Hotel on July 2, 1927, wiped out the town once again. By the 1930s Point Arena was rebuilt and many art deco and arte moderne remnants still stand downtown.

Since then roads have been paved and the scenic Coast Highway One turns into Point Arena's Main Street. The pier has been revitalized with restaurants and inns and harbors a small fishing fleet. Main Street sports historic facades, coffee shops, bars and a theater as well as a new public kiosk describing Point Arena's status as a California Coastal National Monument gateway.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the city of Point Arena for a hundred years of determination and success. I would also like to salute the energetic and conscientious city council, which chose "Still Crazy After all These Years" as the motto for its centennial. And for their new colorful city seal featuring the indigenous Point Arena Mountain Beaver.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN WOOTERS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Alan Wooters, a native of Gowrie, Iowa, who has been a distinguished long time public servant in Webster County, Iowa.

For the past 44 years, Alan has been working in the Webster County Auditor's office. After studying at the American Institute of Business in Des Moines, Alan began his non-elected position at the age of 19. Despite being a long-time Republican and a member of the Webster County Republican Central Committee, the three auditors he has worked for during his 44 year career have all been Democrats. In today's political climate, he certainly serves as a wonderful example of how to work across the aisle to accomplish results for the greater good.

Although Alan is stepping down from his First Deputy Auditor position, he hopes to continue serving the community by devoting more time to volunteering in programs such as Meals on Wheels and continuing as the president of the Gowrie Historical Society.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Alan Wooters for his many years of service to Webster County, Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Alan in Congress, and I wish him the best in his retirement and as he continues to serve his community.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work and accomplishments of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The CDB has most recently been ranked among the world's most effective international financial institutions by Standard & Poor's, with the highest possible foreign currency high credit rating.

The CDB's mission is to promote economic growth and development among Caribbean member states by promoting economic cooperation and regional integration. Their work has helped to facilitate more efficient economic partnerships throughout the Caribbean by providing a number of financial services to the region.

I would like to thank the CDB for its contribution to the development of the Caribbean and I would like to wish the bank continued growth and success.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MILAZZO

HON. CHARLIE MELANCON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize

the retirement of John Milazzo as the chairman of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Elected to the NAFCU Board in 1999, John has been a leader in the credit union community both nationally and within my great state of Louisiana.

For the past nine years, Mr. Milazzo has been balancing his time as a NAFCU Board member, including the past two years as the chairman of the NAFCU Board, against his responsibilities at Campus Federal Credit Union, where he has been the president/CEO since 1985. Headquartered in Baton Rouge, Campus Federal Credit Union is a \$320 million multibranch credit union serving 39,000 members that is known for its use of technology and innovation to improve operational efficiency.

Throughout his tenure as chairman of the NAFCU Board of Directors, Mr. Milazzo worked tirelessly to enhance the federal credit union charter by working with Congress for regulatory relief legislation for credit unions. As chairman, he has also helped maintain NAFCU's status as a leading credit union trade association. John has been an active credit union advocate on local, state and national levels, having served on the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Financial Institutions Advisory Committee and as chairman of the Southern Financial Exchange and now serving as a member of Fannie Mae's National Advisory Council.

Many would think that the work he does for credit unions would be enough to fill a day, but that is not the case. Mr. Milazzo is a dedicated family man who finds time to volunteer with the United Way Campaign and the Community Fund for the Arts. He is a current member of Kiwanis International and previously served as club president and former district lieutenant governor of the organization. He is also a Eucharistic minister and member of the finance committee of Saint Anne's Catholic Church. A graduate of Louisiana State, he may also be one of the most loyal LSU Tigers fans in the nation, and he continues to serve the LSU community through Campus Federal Credit Union.

It is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Milazzo on his fine work throughout his illustrious tenure as chair of NAFCU. I have worked with him on issues that are important to the credit union community in the past, and I am committed to continuing this relationship. I have no doubt that, with Milazzo's more than 20 years of experience in the credit union community, his departure will leave a great void. Congratulations on your retirement from the NAFCU Board, Mr. Milazzo.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN IN SPACE—DR. SALLY K. RIDE—AND HONORING HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPACE PROGRAM AND TO SCIENCE EDUCATION

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution "Celebrating the

25th Anniversary of the First American Woman in Space—Dr. Sally K. Ride—and Honoring Her Contributions to the Space Program and to Science Education." On June 18, 2008 we mark the historic date, twenty-five years ago, when the STS-7 Space Shuttle mission flew the first American woman into space. Dr. Sally Ride, an accomplished athlete who once considered pursuing a professional career in tennis, holds this special distinction and has continued to be a passionate and inspiring advocate for space and for science throughout her career.

Dr. Ride, who earned undergraduate degrees in both English and physics at Stanford University and who continued her academic training leading to a doctorate in physics, was selected as an astronaut candidate in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) eighth astronaut class, the first to include women. On the historic STS-7 mission, Dr. Ride served as a mission specialist; her work with the STS-7 crew included launching two communications satellites, conducting demonstration activities with the Shuttle robotic arm, and facilitating experiments in materials science.

On October 5, 1984, Dr. Ride made her second spaceflight aboard the STS 41-G mission, which launched the Earth Radiation Budget Satellite and demonstrated the capability to refuel satellites in orbit, among other accomplishments. Sadly, training preparations for Dr. Ride's third spaceflight assignment, the STS 61-M mission, ended following the *Challenger* accident. She then was asked to serve on the Presidential Commission that investigated that accident, and later she served with distinction on the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

Madam Speaker, following her NASA career, Dr. Ride has focused her experience, talent, and dedication as a leader and advocate for educating the next generation of scientists and engineers—especially young women. As a professor and scientist, she has served on the faculty of the University of California San Diego and as director of the University of California's California Space Institute. She has authored scientific publications on free electron lasers. She has also authored several children's books about science and space.

Dr. Ride's current focus has been through her efforts to provide hands-on learning about science, math, and technology for young students and teachers. She has been the principal investigator of Earth Knowledge Acquired by Middle School Students (EarthKAM), a NASA education program that allows students to control a digital camera that is attached to the International Space Station, to determine what to photograph, and to use the imagery for their science studies. The project also instills experience in teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. In addition, Madam Speaker, as the first American woman in space, Dr. Ride has used her fame constructively, mentoring and encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in space, science, and engineering. To that end, she has developed science festivals, science camps and other opportunities for girls and young women to engage in science, math, and technology activities.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in space we also celebrate the dawn of the space age a quarter of a century earlier. The

historic milestone of Dr. Ride's flight encourages us to look forward to the additional "firsts" for our nation's space program in the coming decades. Dr. Ride's profound dedication to promoting opportunities for science and engineering learning is helping to build that exciting future.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support this resolution celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first American woman in space and to extend our appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Ride's excellence in service to the nation as an astronaut, educator, and advocate for the next generation of women scientists and engineers.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, in the past 10 years, the price of crude oil has risen by more than 400 percent, accounting for much of the nearly 200 percent increase in gasoline prices during that time. America should have spent the past decade investing in renewable energy and infrastructure, but we instead remain the number one importer of oil. Foreign oil accounts for 23.5 percent of United States energy consumption, the largest component of our energy profile. To meet its needs, the U.S. spends over \$100 billion on foreign oil, helping to sustain corrupt political systems and state terrorism. This will continue to persist as long as we are dependent on oil, as nearly two-thirds of proved world oil reserves reside in countries considered "not free" by leading human rights organizations.

America's dependence on oil is a threat to our national security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

Forty-five years ago, President Kennedy pledged to send man to the moon. We need a similar "moon shot" program to end our dependence on foreign oil. The bill I stand here to introduce, the Apollo Energy Independence Act, taps the greatest asset of the United States, Yankee ingenuity and free markets, to boost alternative vehicles and increase renewable energies to get off foreign oil. By cutting funding for low-priority programs, we can fund a massive effort to end our dependence on the Middle East.

The Apollo Energy Independence Act first and foremost permanently extends investment tax credits for renewable energy such as wind; closed-loop biomass; open-loop biomass; geothermal; small irrigation; hydropower; landfill gas; marine power; trash combustion facilities; solar energy property; fuel cell property; microturbines; and nuclear energy. The bill also permanently extends a number of energy efficiency tax incentives.

Each Congress, lawmakers scramble at the last minute to renew these effective incentives, then shortsightedly extend them for just a short period. This has undoubtedly stifled the growth of our renewable energy industry. Some studies estimate that renewable energy could supply up to 37 percent of our electricity needs by 2030, resulting in \$700 billion in economic activity and 5 million new U.S. jobs by 2025. Yet in years which the production tax credit is set to expire, investments significantly

decline. In the wind energy sector alone, investments drop an average 80 percent every other year when the credits expire. In order to realize our full renewable potential, it is absolutely essential that we provide long-term incentives to engender enough market confidence to generate sustained investment.

If the proposals established in the Apollo Energy Independence Act are implemented, renewable energy use could increase by more than 320 percent and comprise the largest segment of U.S. energy use. Foreign oil use would plummet by more than 730 percent, based on estimates from the National Hydrogen Association (NHA), the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) and the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

The Apollo Energy Independence Act also establishes a number of permanent tax incentives to purchase and produce advanced vehicle technologies and alternative fuels, such as cellulosic and hydrogen fuel. The legislation also permanently extends the hybrid tax credit, increases it by 50 percent and eliminates the obstructive limitation. Since current law limits the hybrid tax credit to just the first 60,000 vehicles, the full credit was available for the most popular vehicles for just 9 months after its establishment. The quarter in which the credit began to phase out, Toyota saw its hybrid vehicle sales decline by nearly 30 percent. My legislation repeals this limit to facilitate the constant proliferation of hybrid vehicles.

In order to spur the development and deployment of even more advanced vehicles, we establish an advanced vehicle technology credit for plug-in electric drive, fuel cell and flexible fuel vehicles. But our failure to fully deploy alternative fuels and vehicles is not simply a lack of development, it also stems from a lack of proper infrastructure. My legislation increases and makes permanent the alternative fueling property credit. It also provides a steady funding stream, via Corporate Average Fuel Economy penalties, to the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Initiative, which establishes local public-private partnerships to find alternative fueling infrastructure solutions to reduce our oil consumption.

Americans currently import 12 million barrels of oil daily. The policies of the Apollo Act could decrease foreign oil consumption by up to 10 million barrels per day by 2030, according to a study commissioned by the NHA. At today's crude oil prices, this would save America over \$500 billion annually.

The bill establishes a number of other measures to help consumers reduce their energy and gasoline costs, including providing market incentives to boost public transportation use, reducing costly boutique fuels, providing grants for green school improvements and eliminating ethanol tariffs.

To fund this effort, the legislation cuts Federal funding for congressional earmarks and agriculture subsidies while consolidating a number of lower priority Government functions. By spurring new energy technology, resulting spin-offs promise to generate additional economic growth and jobs. According to NASA, since 1976 more than 1,500 technologies emerged from the space program, creating thousands of new jobs and industries.

The United States spent \$19.5 billion to realize one of her most prestigious accomplishments—landing on the moon. We should invest in a similar national effort that will be

equally important for the sustainability of our society and could have even far more reaching and long-term benefits than the Apollo program. I hope my colleagues will join Representatives JUDY BIGGERT, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and me in taking the first step toward achieving this goal and support the Apollo Energy Independence Act.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ELSON "SKIP" EHRLHARDT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent heroic action of Eldora, Iowa Police Officer Elson "Skip" Ehrhardt.

On March 5, 2008 at 12:48 a.m., while Officer Ehrhardt was on patrol, he received an emergency page indicating that a woman was in active labor a half block away in the Merritt Mobile Home Court. When Officer Ehrhardt arrived on the scene, he had to urge a hesitant woman to leave the bathroom where she had begun to go into labor. When she eventually came out, Ehrhardt realized that her water had broken and that there was no time to get her medical assistance. He noticed that the baby's head was on its way out, and about a minute later, at 12:57 a.m., Officer Ehrhardt had the baby in his arms. He then quickly unwrapped the umbilical cord and rubbed the baby vigorously until the baby began to cry, just as an ambulance arrived with paramedics.

Officer Ehrhardt's alertness and decisive decision making in such a critical situation goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. His courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to do whatever it takes for a neighbor in need. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Officer Ehrhardt on a job well done. It is an honor to represent such a compassionate Iowan in Congress, and I wish Officer Ehrhardt the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE WALKER TAVERN FARMER'S PICNIC

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the one hundredth anniversary of the first Walker Tavern Farmer's Picnic held in Brooklyn, Michigan in 1908. It is with great enthusiasm that I honor the Farmer's Picnic on behalf of the many Michigan families who have experienced the joy of this unique event.

Started by a group of business owners in 1907, the first Walker Tavern Farmer's Picnic was celebrated in the Irish Hills and quickly became a highly anticipated annual event. This day-long picnic, originally called the Businessmen's Picnic, brought families, friends, and visitors together to share food, partake in games, and exchange stories. The picnic offered over 25 summers of community enter-

tainment from 1908 to 1935 until halted by the Depression.

This historic event is known for the bringing together workers of many trades, such as businessmen and farmers. A 1922 account reveals that the picnic drew a crowd of about 1,500 and featured a baseball game between the farmers and the businessmen. Friendly games among locals is part of what made this picnic the highlight of the summer for over a quarter century.

This year the community spirit that inspired the picnic will be rekindled. In honor of its one hundredth anniversary, families and friends will gather once again at Walker Tavern to celebrate the traditions of the past. Folks will enjoy free family fun by sharing a potluck lunch and engaging in old time games including tug-of-war and a watermelon seed spitting contest. In addition, a vintage baseball game will be played according to Civil War era rules where the ball is only allowed to bounce once before it is counted as out and participants wear no mitts, just as those who participated before them did.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the one hundredth anniversary of Walker Tavern Farmer's Picnic for its ability to draw this community together to celebrate a rich heritage all Michiganders can be proud of. May others know of my high regard for this celebrated event as well as my highest recognition for its storied past.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD PAUL ELLIS ON THIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today in honor of Richard Paul Ellis on his 100th birthday.

Mr. Ellis has watched his home town of Milton, Florida grow from a dirt-road countryside to a sizable city in the 100 years that he has lived there. He grew up on the east side of the area and attended the Greater Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal Church and Magnolia School.

Over the years, his life took root and blossomed into varying forms. He married in 1930 and proceeded to have eleven children. Mr. Ellis has been active in the Greater Bethlehem African Methodist Episcopal Church from early on. He strengthened his participation, serving as Class Leader, Stewart Board member, and Stewart Pro-Tem. Mr. Ellis also taught Sunday School and helped remodel the sanctuary.

In 1951, Mr. Ellis joined the Shriner's organization and began participating in the Pride of Milton Lodge #12 location. In 1965, he was elected Worshipful Master and served in the position for thirty-five years. Mr. Ellis was a charter member of the R.P. Ellis Royal Arch Masons and served as the High Priest for five years. After a fire badly damaged the Masonic Lodge, which was used as a school building at the time, he helped secure funds for the reconstruction of a new school.

For a century Mr. Ellis has graced the residents of Milton with his charity and good deeds. The First District of Florida is greatly indebted to his service and is honored to have

him as one of their own. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to wish Richard Paul Ellis a happy 100th birthday, and I wish him many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN SHELBY COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Shelby County:

Mike Schantz, Director, Emergency Management Agency

Michael Bowlby, Sheriff

Scott Furgeson, Mayor, City of Shelbyville

Bill Elliott, Chief of Police, City of Shelbyville

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Shelby County will be well served by these officials.

INTRODUCTION OF CRUISE VESSEL SECURITY AND SAFETY ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act. This bicameral, comprehensive cruise safety reform legislation has been informed by 2 years of research and numerous Congressional hearings.

Madam Speaker, over 12 million Americans will travel on cruise lines in 2008. Within 5 years, that number is expected to reach 20 million. Unfortunately, few of these passengers fully appreciate how vulnerable they are to crime while at sea. Cruise ships, which operate under foreign flags of convenience, are not required under U.S. law to report crimes that occur outside of U.S. territorial waters. Citizens who are victimized often do not know their legal rights or who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of the crime.

In recent years, the media has reported on a number of high profile cases of passengers

falling overboard, passengers gone missing and passengers being raped and sexually assaulted. Sadly, many of these cases remain unresolved.

My involvement in this issue began after a young woman from my district, Laurie Dishman, came to me for assistance after she had been a victim of a violent crime on a cruise ship. Laurie shared her shocking story with me in a letter 2 years ago. At its heart, this bill addresses the concerns brought to my office 2 years ago by my constituent, Laurie Dishman.

As a passenger on board a Royal Caribbean cruise ship, Laurie was raped by a crew member. One of the most disturbing aspects of Laurie's case is that the cruise ship on which she was raped had inadequate security staff. As a result, the cruise line promoted someone with no training to perform security personnel duties. If a real security guard had been on duty that evening, Laurie may have been spared her awful ordeal. The tragedy that ensued is something that Laurie will never forget.

Laurie was brave enough to report the incident to the crew authorities, even though they treated her poorly and with little sensitivity. She also reported the crime to the FBI. Unfortunately, the U.S. Attorney's office declined the case for prosecution just 4 days later.

I have since learned that there have been no convictions for rape cases on cruise lines in four decades. This statistic takes on a new meaning through the lens of Laurie's experience.

Laurie told her story at a Transportation and Infrastructure, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on crimes on cruise ships. At the hearing she spoke of her experience and also ways to improve prevention methods, including: peep holes and security latches on stateroom doors; instituting sensitivity training for crew members; and ensuring more CCTV cameras in hallways.

After the hearing, I introduced the Protect Americans from Crimes on Cruise Ships Resolution on September 17, 2007, with Representatives CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and CAROLYN MALONEY. The resolution has over 30 cosponsors.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee held a follow-up hearing on September 19, 2007. We heard from other victims, some who were raped or assaulted while on a cruise; others who lost family members at sea. Unfortunately, we did not hear that the cruise lines had changed many of their standard operating procedures to reflect the previous hearing. In fact, just a few weeks before the hearing, a young woman had been raped on a cruise ship and was not given access to proper care.

These incidents beg the question: what is the process when a crime is committed on a cruise line and what recourse do victims have? The more Members of Congress have inquired, the more we have learned that there is no shortage of cases of rape, sexual assaults of minors, alcohol-related fighting and abuse, and persons overboard.

Most recently, Senator KERRY and Senator LAUTENBERG held a hearing on cruise safety. Less than a month before the hearing, a constituent of Senator LAUTENBERG's went missing while on a cruise, and was believed to have gone overboard. The family was not immediately

notified of the incident. This incident occurred 4 years after Ken Carver's daughter, Merrian, went missing on a Royal Caribbean cruise to Alaska. Since then, Ken has been instrumental in organizing victims to promote safety on cruise ships, including starting the International Cruise Victims organization and developing a 10-point program to improve safety on cruise ships.

Today, as a result of Mr. Carver, Ms. Dishman, and all of the many families of victims who have suffered so greatly, I am introducing a comprehensive reform bill with my esteemed colleagues CHRIS SHAYS, CAROLYN MALONEY, LLOYD DOGETT and JOHN LEWIS to address the public safety concerns on cruise ships.

Our legislation seeks to improve ship safety, provide transparency in reporting, improve crime scene response, improve training procedures and enforce safety and environmental standards.

Improve Ship Safety. Our legislation would improve ship safety by mandating guard rails to reach 54 inches in height and entry doors of each passenger stateroom and crew cabin to have peep holes, security latches, and time sensitive key technology. Ship owners would be required to implement fire safety codes as well as technology to detect when a passenger falls overboard. Procedures would also be established to determine which crew members have access to staterooms and when.

Provide Transparency in Reporting. The legislation would establish a reporting structure based on the current voluntary agreement in place between the cruise industry, the FBI, and the Coast Guard. Additionally, each ship would be required to maintain a log book, which would record all deaths, missing individuals, alleged crimes, and passenger/crew-member complaints regarding theft, sexual harassment, and assault. The log books would be available to FBI and Coast Guard electronically, as well as to any law enforcement officer upon request. Statistical information would be posted on a public Web site maintained by the Coast Guard.

Improve Crime Scene Response. Each ship would be required to maintain antiretroviral medications and medications used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases after assault, as well as equipment and materials for performing a medical examination to determine if a victim has been raped. A United States licensed medical practitioner would be on every ship to perform the necessary examinations and to administer treatment. Private medical information would be protected, and would require written authorization for release. Additionally, all passengers would be given free, immediate, and confidential access to a National Sexual Assault Hotline and the FBI.

Improve Training Procedures. The legislation would establish a program designed by the Coast Guard and the FBI, and certified by the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, to train appropriate crewmembers in crime scene investigation. Each ship would be required to maintain one crewmember trained and certified under such a program.

Enforce Safety and Environmental Standards. The Coast Guard is authorized to dispatch personnel to monitor discharge of waste, to verify logbook entries related to waste treatment and disposal, and to act as public safety officers by securing and collecting evidence of alleged crimes. Additionally, the Secretary of the Coast Guard shall

conduct a study of passenger security needs and report findings to Congress.

Established Equitable Remedies. The bill also establishes fair and equal remedies for persons injured in boating disasters.

Madam Speaker, nearly all cruise ships operate under a foreign flag. U.S. citizens who are victimized onboard cruise ships often do not know their legal rights or who to contact for help in the immediate aftermath of crimes. Unfortunately, few U.S. nationals are aware that they are at risk of being the victims of crime while on their vacations. And, it is even more concerning that these victims have inadequate access to assistance or law enforcement in the aftermath of the crime. Cruises operate in a legal vacuum, where a lack of accountability empowers predators and obstructs their victims' pursuit of justice. That is an unacceptable situation, made worse by the cruise lines' own efforts to avoid scrutiny of and accountability for their own handling of the security of their passengers.

My hope is that with increased Congressional oversight, the cruise lines will finally take these crimes seriously and enact necessary reforms. This comprehensive legislation will give Americans who are victims of crime on a cruise ship access to justice, and require that necessary steps are taken to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice. The legislation will also ensure that the cruise industry provides information to passengers about security risks and maintain necessary security personnel on each ship.

The Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2008 addresses the ongoing safety concerns on cruise ships and will help ensure that the millions of men, women and children who cruise each year are informed, aware and safe on cruise ships. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important bicameral, comprehensive legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY HEDLUND

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Special Agent Larry Hedlund as a recipient of the Iowa Law Enforcement Victim Service Award. The awards were created by the Federal Law Enforcement Victim Task Force of the U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa.

Agent Hedlund was nominated by the Webster County Attorney's Office for his role in protecting a victim and successfully prosecuting the defendant in the State of Iowa vs. Perry Bender case. Agent Hedlund was able to gain the victim's trust and cooperation after she was threatened with physical harm by the defendant if she appeared for a deposition in the pending case. He used the information he gained from the victim to locate a digital recorder that included a conversation of the defendant threatening the victim. This evidence eventually led to the conviction of Mr. Bender.

Agent Hedlund's 20 years of dedicated service to the Iowa Department of Public Safety has made a positive impact on the lives of many victims caught in dangerous circumstances. His courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans; willing to risk his own safety for people in need.

I commend Special Agent Larry Hedlund for his outstanding service to his community and performance on the job. I am honored to represent Agent Hedlund in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best in his future work protecting the citizens of Iowa.

IN RECOGNITION OF LT. RON HAUGSDAHL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Ron Haugsdahl of the Fairfax County Police Department. Lieutenant Haugsdahl has helped lead the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force and has personally supervised the evolution of the task force from its beginning to today's nationally recognized unit dedicated to fighting gangs and crime. His tireless efforts coordinating the 15 participating agencies have led to marked achievements in the fight against violent gangs in northern Virginia.

Lieutenant Haugsdahl has served in the Fairfax County Police Department since 1993, and previously served in the city of Falls Church Police Department from 1986 to 1993 as well as in the U.S. Army as a military police officer from 1983 to 1986. Over his more years in law enforcement, Lieutenant Haugsdahl's duties have included patrol sergeant, gang detective, criminal investigator, and firearms instructor, in addition to his more recent leadership role with the task force.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge today this fine public servant devoted to upholding the law and protecting the residents of northern Virginia. His service is greatly appreciated.

HONORING HOUSE FELLOWS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program on the completion of their weeklong program. As an initiative of the Office of the Historian, this program has been a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education teachers of American history and government to experience firsthand how Congress really works. They were chosen because they were educators with demonstrated excellence in the classroom.

One of the goals of the program is to develop curricular materials on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. Each Fellow will prepare his or her brief lesson plan on a Congressional topic of their choosing, and these plans will become part of a teaching resource database on the House. During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow will have the responsibility to present their experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

With plans to select a teacher from every congressional district over the next 4 years,

the House Fellows Program will be able to impact thousands of high school teachers and their students, providing an inside account of how the House of Representatives functions, energizing thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

I had the honor of meeting the Fellows this week and know that all Members will join me in congratulating the following teachers who have successfully completed the program:

Ms. Gale Carter, East Chicago Central High School, East Chicago, Indiana (IN01, Visclosky); Ms. Jennifer Fine, New Canaan High School, New Canaan, Connecticut (CT04, Shays); Mr. Todd Hodkey, Wellington High School, Wellington, Ohio (OH09, Kaptur); Mrs. Amy Koelsch, Sterling Heights High School, Sterling Heights, Michigan (MI12); Mrs. Gerry Kohler, Wood County Schools, Wood County, West Virginia (WV01); Mr. Erik Korling, Willows High School, Willows, California (CA02); Mr. Steven Kwiatkowski, Clay High School, Oregon, Ohio (OH09); Ms. Evelyn Longino, Red River High School, Coushatta, Louisiana (LA04, McCrery); Mr. Jake Miller, Panther Valley High School, Lansford, Pennsylvania (PA11, Kanjorski); Mr. Tony Storch, Caldwell Academy, Greensboro, North Carolina (NC06, Coble); Mr. Jonathan Waldron, Mattawan High School, Mattawan, Michigan (MI06, Upton).

As many of my colleagues already know, the first bill I sponsored upon becoming a Member of Congress in 1999 was the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, which directed the Librarian of Congress to oversee the writing of a history of the House of Representatives. Once this bill was signed into law (P.L. 106-99), the Librarian of Congress very wisely chose the eminent historian and author, Dr. Robert V. Remini, to write the history, which was published in 2006 under the title of *The House*. The project was so well received that the Speaker of the House reestablished the Office of the Historian in 2005 and appointed Dr. Remini as the House Historian.

Madam Speaker, I would like to urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Under the leadership of Dr. Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler, along with their staff; Michael Cronin, Anthony Wallis, Andrew Dodge, and Dr. Charles Flanagan; interns George Dise, Parker Williams, and Mike Ferrin; the Office of the Historian is dedicated to fulfilling the goals of the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act by conserving and presenting the history of the House of Representatives, the "People's House."

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT, AT THE 37TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY OF MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York (CUNY) which recently celebrated its thirty-seventh Commencement Ceremony and to enter into the RECORD an article from the New York Carib News for the week ending June 24, 2008 titled

"Graduate Spotlight, At the 37th Commencement Ceremony Of Medgar Evers College, CUNY."

Medgar Evers College was founded as a result of collaborative efforts by community leaders, elected officials, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York. The College, named for the late civil rights leader, Medgar Wiley Evers (1925–1963), was established in 1970 with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the Central Brooklyn community. Medgar Evers College is committed to the fulfillment of this mandate. Consequently, the College's mission is to develop and maintain high quality, professional, career-oriented undergraduate degree programs in the context of liberal education.

Medgar Evers College has a history of educational partnerships with Caribbean nations; articulation agreements exist with institutions such as the University of the West Indies, the University of Guyana and Dominica State College. These arrangements have fostered student and faculty exchanges as well as curriculum development initiatives. The relationship between the College and the Caribbean was recognized and reaffirmed last week during the visit of the leaders of the CARICOM states with a new agreement to expand and strengthen cooperative relationships with educational institutions in the Caribbean.

The future is bright for Medgar Evers College; graduates received degrees in an exciting array of disciplines and were awarded prestigious scholarships.

It is my sincere hope that other Colleges and Universities around the world will join the Medgar Evers College in establishing successful student and faculty exchange with other countries, while simultaneously allowing minorities and people from lower income families to further their education.

This Commencement ceremony offers us an occasion to thank the students and faculty of Medgar Evers College for their strength, their courage, and their invaluable contributions to U.S. and global communities. So, on this 37th Commencement ceremony, I proudly stand with Medgar Evers College to celebrate and appreciate the growth and change it continues to establish.

[From the CUNY Newswire, June 12, 2008]

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 37TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY OF MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE; GOVERNOR PATERSON DELIVERS KEYNOTE

Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York (CUNY) celebrated its thirty-seventh Commencement ceremony in the College Amphitheater at 1650 Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn on Saturday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m. Themed It's all about M.E.—Aspiration, Devotion, & Culmination, the exercises commemorated the culmination of years of academic dedication by the Class of 2008.

Following the College's Annual Alumni Breakfast and traditional Presidential Reception for special invited guests, the occasion opened with a grand procession comprised of New York State Governor David A. Paterson, City University of New York Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, College President Edison O. Jackson, senior University and College officials, honor guards, flag bearers, faculty, and the 975 students of the graduating body.

Amongst those donning caps and gowns that day were notable graduates like business major Alan Newton, a 46-year-old Bronx native who served 22 years in prison before

DNA evidence secured his release. Newton plans on continuing his education in law school and later to work in a field that allows him to give back. "I want to carry the torch of social justice. A lot of people are voiceless and even if they have the power they don't know how to wield it," he said.

The graduates received words of congratulations and encouragement from dignitaries like Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

"In life, as you know, you can either wait for things to happen or make things happen. As a Medgar Evers graduate, I know you've got the style, pizzazz, moxy, and chutzpah. I know that you'll make things happen, said Markowitz. "You are the best of Brooklyn and the best of New York."

"You [graduates] are the inspiration and motivation for the work that I do," said Clarke. "You are part of a legacy of excellence. A legacy that reigns supreme and as long as you remember that, as long as you are committed to that, our future is secure."

In his keynote address, New York State's 55th, and its first African American, governor, David A. Paterson said, "To all of you graduates I wish for you all that you desire in your careers; but it is the responsibility of our government to make sure that you have equal opportunities." He went on to discuss his plans to help ensure such opportunities through the issuance of an "executive order about the procurement of minority and women-owned businesses, right here in the State of New York, for contracts, for investment banking, for savings and bonds and insurance" this week.

"As you go forward in your lives, don't forget where you came from," Paterson continued. "Don't forget Medgar Evers. Don't forget the younger people who will be coming to this school. Contribute to the school. Come back."

The future is bright for Medgar Evers College; graduates received associates and baccalaureate degrees in an exciting array of disciplines that day. Additionally, three scholarships, totaling twenty thousand dollars, were awarded through the National Grid Charles Evans Inniss and Dr. Betty Shabazz Awards.

The hopeful nature of the day was best expressed by College President Dr. Jackson, "Yours is an extremely fortunate generation. One that stands in the sunlight of a new tomorrow."

HONORING THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY'S ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank the city of Leon Valley as they prepare to host their annual Fourth of July parade and celebration. This marks the 14 consecutive year in which Leon Valley has celebrated our Nation's independence.

This historical significance of our independence is felt beyond our domestic borders as this holiday truly epitomizes the meaning of the word democracy. Centuries ago on this day, our Founding Fathers stood up for their cherished values and used them as a blueprint for the basis of our country's government. They believed in a citizen's right to freedom and equality, and they abandoned tyranny and

oppression along the way to forming a bold new government.

What started as a courageous experiment in democracy developed into a flourishing government that to this day symbolizes liberty and justice. Without their vision, our democracy would not be what it now is over 200 years later. Along the way, our country has continuously represented the principles on which it was founded to the rest of the world. It is a tremendous responsibility that we carry not only as a government but also as citizens, and it is one that we should all be honored to fulfill.

It is with great privilege that I commend the city of Leon Valley for recognizing these important principles of our democracy with their annual Independence Day celebration. The Leon Valley community should be proud of their efforts, both in the past and in the future, to honor our Nation's independence and the values this holiday represents.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SEGAL AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help people who have looked around their community and seen a great need. They have answered a call to national service. They are AmeriCorps volunteers.

Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards are offered to volunteers after they complete their service so they can pay for an education. The award is \$4,725 for a year of full-time service. It is prorated for part-time. Unfortunately it is taxed as regular income. This legislation makes clear that the Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards are not income and should not be subject to income taxes. The AmeriCorps Education Award should be a source of inspiration to serve not a source of fear on tax day.

People trying to pay for college cannot afford to be hit by extra taxes on this education benefit, not while they are still in school, and not when they are struggling to make ends meet through working their first job. People cannot afford an unjust tax bill at the same time their student loans are coming due. People cannot afford to receive less financial aid because this award is counted as income and makes student loan applicants appear to have more ability to afford college than they actually do.

Now is the time to believe in people again. Now is the time to believe in the power of change. We must find every way to reinforce just how important it is that the American people engage in volunteer service to their country. We must make the future a better future. AmeriCorps volunteers are out there every day, leading the way, getting in the way and making good change. This bill invests in the power of change.

TRIBUTE TO TOM COMFORT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Tom Comfort, principal of Emerson Elementary School in Indianola, Iowa, on the occasion of his retirement. I also want to express my appreciation for Tom's dedication and commitment to the youth of Iowa.

For the past 35 years Mr. Comfort has contributed his time and talents to improving lives through education and mentoring. Tom began as a student teacher in the school district in 1972. He later taught second grade at Emerson for over 20 years and worked 5 years in administration before becoming principal. Mr. Comfort is well-known for his natural ability to connect with young students, parents, and fellow educators. His guidance, sense of humor, and many unique abilities including his storytelling, will certainly be missed by all at Emerson Elementary, as is evidenced by art projects organized by teachers and students at every grade level in his honor.

Mr. Comfort has made a lasting impact on the many students and teachers he has worked with over his career. I consider it an honor to represent Tom in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

ESTABLISHING A CONGRESS 2012 COMMISSION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will continue my efforts of previous Congresses to work toward better representation for our constituents. My legislation will form a commission to examine how we, the people, may be best served by our representational democracy. This commission would analyze the current size of the membership of the House of Representatives and examine alternatives to the current method of electing Representatives.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Rules Legislative and Budget Subcommittee, I find it absolutely necessary to continually update our mechanisms for representation and governance to best serve those constituents who have trusted us with representing them.

The legislation I offer today will counter the unfortunate truth that, ironically, our land of the free is one of the most under-representative democracies in the world. When considering elected federal representation per capita, many other countries throughout the world have parliaments which can more closely serve their constituents. Smaller ratios of elected officials to constituents allow for better engagement to more effectively address the needs of their districts. As a country that holds itself up as the standard bearer for the democratic process, we must be critical of our own standards to guarantee that we continue to give all citizens an equal and meaningful voice in our government.

We have encountered an electoral crisis in recent years with low voter turnout and diminishing faith in the effectiveness of our electoral process. However, the energy of this current election cycle has exponentially increased voter registration. We owe it to our constituents to ensure that this increase in civic engagement is met with the most effective mechanism of representation possible. The Commission proposed in the legislation I introduce today will meet that need by determining the best way to ensure maximum participation in this great democracy by every American citizen.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and look forward to its expedient passage.

HONORING DERRICK GREGG

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 15-year-old Derrick Gregg from Highland, Illinois. For his Eagle Scout badge project, Derrick chose to raise funds for building a helipad in Highland.

The \$88,000 helipad that Derrick has raised the money to build is fully heated. Additionally, it also has radio controlled lighting. As the nearest trauma center to Highland is about 40 miles away, this landing pad will be used when critical patients need to be transported by helicopter.

I congratulate Derrick for his efforts which will serve his community well. I wish him the best as he finishes this project and completes his Eagle Scout requirements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, I was not present for recorded votes due to a funeral in Florida that I attended. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: rollcall No. 449—"no"; rollcall No. 450—"no"; rollcall No. 451—"no"; rollcall No. 452—"no"; rollcall No. 453—"no"; rollcall No. 454—"aye"; rollcall No. 455—"no"; rollcall No. 456—"aye"; rollcall No. 457—"no"; rollcall No. 458—"no"; rollcall No. 459—"no"; rollcall No. 460—"aye"; rollcall No. 461—"aye."

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN RANDOLPH COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as

well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Randolph County:

Rick Brown, Director, Emergency Management Agency

Jay Harris, Sheriff

Steven Croyle, Mayor, City of Winchester

Michael Burke, Chief of Police, City of Winchester

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Randolph County will be well served by these officials.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PREPAREDNESS, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2008, THE DHS PREP ACT OF 2008

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, we live in a world where security threats have become more complex. For that reason, nurturing a field of educated and knowledgeable experts—trained and prepared to meet the security challenges before us—should be a priority of the United States Government. To accomplish this goal, opportunities within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should be made available for students to participate in programs that allow them to help develop the solutions to the security challenges that our Nation confronts. It is equally important that participating students come from diverse backgrounds and are truly representative of all the communities across our homeland.

My legislation, the Department of Homeland Security Preparedness, Research, and Education Program Act of 2008, or the DHS PREP Act of 2008, would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out a program for fellowships and research to enhance domestic preparedness and the collective response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

When natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast region, infrastructure and the most basic services too many take for granted were destroyed. The Department of Homeland Security is overseeing efforts to rebuild public infrastructure in the Gulf Coast region that was devastated by natural disasters. That is why, during the first year of the fellowship, participants will undertake research specifically focused on rebuilding and recovery of the Gulf Coast.

It is the aim of this legislation to allow students receiving fellowships from this program to work closely with the National Center for Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure, and Emergency Management to strengthen our Nation's overall response to natural disasters. The research conducted by the fellowship participants will also reinforce the efforts of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding at DHS. Additionally, the research conducted by the fellows will be shared with Congress.

This important legislation will allow us to train experts and professionals to develop substantive policy solutions that will seek to solve the homeland security and disaster response challenges that confront our Nation. I ask my colleagues to support the Department of Homeland Security Preparedness, Research, and Education Program Act of 2008, or the DHS PREP Act of 2008.

HONORING GOD AND COUNTRY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, for over 225 years the United States has been a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. Millions of people from every corner of the world have left their homelands to come to America and start a new life, one based on the rights and liberties enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

That freedom comes at a price, however. Whether it is the original fight for independence during the American Revolution, the drive to defeat communism during the cold war, or the current battle against global Islamic extremists, soldiers throughout our history have fought and given their lives to keep us safe here at home. I salute their sacrifice and dedication to their fellow man, and thank those veterans here today for your great military service.

While our Nation has often had to defend itself from enemies, both foreign and domestic, it has been our shared commitment to faith and belief in a higher power that has given us the strength to soldier on during tough and trying times. America has seen both the good and the bad throughout our Nation's history, but in the end I firmly believe that each of us will heed the call to the better angels of our nature when forced to make decisions that affect our fellow man.

Together we can continue the great success of the United States. Throughout our history, while our ancestors came from all over the globe, the great melting pot that is America meant that we have shared a common language and a common faith. Our Nation is firmly rooted in Christian principles that have made us strong and envied by the rest of the world. Whenever a crisis happens in a far-away land across the seas, it is men and women like you who pull together in the spirit of Christian charity and a desire to help your fellow man. It is our military that brings relief supplies to nations like Burma or Indonesia after their floods, and the United States Armed Forces that meets the challenge of liberating

Europe from the Axis superpowers. The can-do spirit of our Nation means we never back away from a challenge, and that by working together we can accomplish anything we set our minds to.

America is the greatest nation in the world. We have a proud history of service, faith and community ties that bind us to the common belief in the goodness of mankind. By working together we can continue that history and ensure that future generations of Americans will share the ideals and values that brought us here today. Thank you and God bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO CLEMMYEE JACKSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Clemmye Jackson, the Ames, Iowa Community School District's accelerated learning program director, after 30 years of service to the Ames community.

For the past 30 years Clemmye has contributed her time and talents to improving youths' lives through education and mentoring. She is a native of Ocala, Florida and moved with her husband George, to Rochester, Michigan when he was hired by Oakwood University in the 1970's. She started working as a substitute teacher and found her niche in working with at-risk children, where she learned to teach using structured discipline, communication in a respectful manner, and a sense of humor. When George took a job at Iowa State University in 1977, she became a counselor at Ames High School. She later became the director of the accelerated learning program for K-12 education in the Ames School District.

Under her guidance, the Ames School district has applied for, and successfully received annual grants of over \$2 million for at-risk accelerated learning programs including an intervention prevention department, Title I, a drug-free program, a program for homeless students, three separate preschool programs, and an English language learner program. Because of Clemmye's vision and hard work, the successful at-risk programs now utilize over 49 teachers and noncertified employees to assist students.

Clemmye has made a lasting impact on students throughout her career, and her leadership will be missed. However, she leaves the future program director the inspiration to help youth dream big, work hard, and achieve great things.

I consider it an honor to represent Clemmye Jackson in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her and her husband George, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

CONNECTICUT CLEAN ENERGY FUND

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. In December 2007, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCF)

Board announced a \$1.18 million grant to the Lee Company's Westbrook production facility for the development of a solar photovoltaic system. On Friday, June 27, 2008 the Lee Company will celebrate the returns on these investments: Connecticut's largest solar photovoltaic system at a manufacturing facility. I rise today to recognize this monumental achievement and commend the Lee Company and the CCEF's leadership with facilitating a greener Connecticut for current and future generations.

In 1948, the Lee Company was founded by Leighton Lee II in eastern Connecticut. Over the past six decades, the Lee Company has transformed the original Connecticut regional offices into a national presence. Today, the company remains one of the foremost developers and manufacturers of fluid control components for aerospace systems.

The CCEF was established by Connecticut's General Assembly in 2000. Since inception, the CCEF, administered by Connecticut Innovations, has invested millions of dollars in renewable energy projects throughout Connecticut, focusing on solar, biomass, wind, hydro, and wave power. In my district alone, the Fund has provided nearly \$14 million in incentive grants for 207 alternative energy projects. Current operating renewable energy projects are estimated to generate 5 million kWh and eliminate over 4.1 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over the course of each year.

As important as the state's help was in this project, it was the vision and determination of the Lee Company that really made the project's exciting transformation of its energy system possible. The CCEF's incentive grant to the Lee Company, which covered half the cost of the 308-kilowatt photovoltaic system at the Westbrook production facility, is one of the largest in the state of Connecticut. Once operating, the photovoltaic system will provide 19 percent of the energy used at the facility. When the system is not in use, energy production credits will be deducted from the company's electric bill.

In addition to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, these investments will generate new economic growth and opportunity. The Lee Company employs more than 100 individuals at the Westbrook production facility and more than 800 people throughout the state. These investments will allow for the continued growth of the company and expanded employment opportunities throughout Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, our Nation is at a critical turning point. For the strength of our economy and health of our environment, investments in clean, renewable energy are needed now more than ever. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing these renewable energy achievements and supporting similar initiatives in their districts.

CELEBRATION OF GOVERNOR BILL SHEFFIELD'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a great American and outstanding Alaskan on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Born on June 26,

1928, in Spokane Washington, the Honorable Bill Sheffield has been a leader in business, government, and public policy for many of the 55 years he has resided in Alaska. He served as governor from 1982 to 1986 following an impressive and prosperous business career in which he built a company that became one of the largest private employers in Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

Following a landslide victory in his 1982 election, Governor Sheffield focused his attention to curbing the runaway growth in state government, bettering the lives of rural Alaskans, and saving more of Alaska's energy revenues for future generations of Alaskans. As Governor he supported opening ANWR, a position I proudly share with him and one which we will continue to support until development begins.

Since leaving public office in 1986, Governor Sheffield hasn't slowed down at all! He is a trustee of Alaska Pacific University; a member of the Advisory Board of ENSTAR Natural Gas; a charter member of Commonwealth North, Alaska's leading public affairs forum; Past Chairman of the Federal Salary Council; former Alaska Chairman of the United Nations 50th year celebration; received the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award in Business from Alaska Business Monthly; former President & CEO of the Alaska Railroad Corporation and now serves on its Board of Directors.

In addition to these many commitments, Governor Sheffield also serves as the Director of the Port of Anchorage. As Director, Sheffield has implemented a massive expansion that started in 2002 and will be completed in 2014. Governor Sheffield's vision for the much needed expansion of the State of Alaska's largest port will serve nearly the entire geographic area and population of our State as goods and materials are brought into Alaska. In addition, the Port will serve National Defense Objectives by providing vital, modernized transportation support and access to four major military installations and personnel in Alaska, including the Stryker Brigade at Ft. Wainwright. Furthermore, the expanded port will play a major role in the ongoing efforts to bring even more of Alaska's vast and much needed energy resources to the rest of the Nation. I am proud to support Governor Sheffield, the expansion of the Port and the fantastic job he is doing for Alaska and the Nation. His tireless energy and enthusiasm continues to amaze me!

As a candidate for Governor in 1982, Bill's theme was "Bringing the State Together." I learned from him that when we all work together we can achieve great things and I hope that others continue to follow in his path of bipartisanship. Most importantly, Madam Speaker, against the backdrop of today's partisan fighting, I have always tried to reach out to the other side, to reach out to Democrats who are dedicated to getting things done. Governor Sheffield, a lifelong Democrat, is one of the best examples I know of someone who is willing to work with anyone, regardless of political affiliation, who is also devoted to achieving important goals for the greater good.

I like to remember great leaders by what they were able to accomplish while they served others. The legacy that Bill will leave behind someday is the vision he has had for the future of Alaska. I share his vision in investing now to prepare for the future. Sometimes this goes against the grain of popular

opinion but a great leader is unafraid of rocking the boat of populism. I celebrate Bill's willingness to do this and wish more public servants were willing to stand up for what is right and not just popular.

I would be remiss were I not to mention that while Bill works hard, he also knows how to enjoy all that life has to offer. He is an excellent duck hunter, fisherman, golfer and an avid outdoorsman and his friends and family mean the world to him. He and I have shared countless hours together over the years and I truly value his unwavering friendship. Madam Speaker, I am honored to call Bill Sheffield my friend and I hope the entire Congress will join me and my wife Lu in wishing him well on this wonderful occasion. Happy birthday Bill! God bless you.

COMMEMORATING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the bravery and courage of American and Korean servicemen; and to celebrate the bonds of friendship between our two great countries. Fifty-eight years ago yesterday, forces from Communist North Korea launched an unprovoked invasion of their neighbors to the south, initiating what we now remember as the Korean War.

Over the course of the following three years, millions of people were killed, wounded or forced from their homes and many more captured by the enemy. American troops of all colors and backgrounds gave their lives for freedom alongside thousands of Koreans. But "The Forgotten War," as it is too often called because it was sandwiched between World War II and Vietnam, was necessary to stem the Communist tide in Asia and preserve the spirit of freedom for millions on the Korean Peninsula.

The battle for Korea likely spared Japan from the threat of Communist invasion and showed the Communist world that the United States and its allies were prepared to vigorously resist Communist aggression. America and South Korea paid a dear price in blood and treasure but those who fell contributed much to the better world the people of South Korea enjoy today.

Since the end of the War in 1953, South Korea has grown both economically and politically and has led as an example of democracy in East Asia, demonstrating our shared values of democratic governance, free enterprise and the rule of law. South Korea is a strong, unwavering ally in the U.S.-led Global War on Terror, having dispatched the third largest contingent of troops to Iraq, and to Afghanistan (where a South Korean soldier was killed during hostile action), and to Lebanon in support of peacekeeping operations there. In fact, South Korea has been one of only four partners and allies that stood with us through all four major conflicts since World War II. In addition, South Korea demonstrated her great friendship and generosity in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, pledging over \$30 million in aid for relief and recovery efforts—the fourth

largest amount donated by any foreign country.

In contrast, Communist North Korea is in dire straits, unable to even feed its people. Like the struggles we see today in the newly liberated countries of Iraq and Afghanistan, when people have the freedom and will to determine their own fate, they will embrace democracy and freedom and the right of self-determination.

I firmly believe that South Korea may be the premier success story of U.S. foreign policy in the post-World War II period. Having assisted South Korea in transforming itself from a war-torn, impoverished economy into a successful democracy with a free enterprise economy (the world's 11th largest), South Korea is now an indispensable partner with the United States in promoting democracy, a free market economy and respect for the rule of law around the world. Our economic relationship with South Korea is crucial as the seventh-largest trading partner with the United States. And almost sixty years later, the relationship between the United States and South Korea continues to be a very special one that builds upon a foundation of a friendship first laid in the 1882 Korean American Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation.

Unfortunately Madam Speaker, there is a question mark hanging over our relationship with South Korea. Monday, June 30, 2008, will mark the one year anniversary since representatives from our two governments signed the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement here in Washington. If implemented, this agreement could potentially be the most commercially-significant free trade agreement signed by the United States in more than a decade. How we dispose of that Agreement will determine whether we are serious about enhancing the strong partnership between our two great democratic nations, and willing to open the door wider to the exchange of science and ideas that help us both to prosper.

South Korea is already the United States' seventh largest export market and sixth largest market for U.S. agricultural products. In fact, according to the latest statistics, our annual bilateral trade totals nearly \$80 billion. Koreans have invested nearly \$20 billion in the United States, and have created American jobs through companies like Hyundai Motors, Samsung Electronics, and Kia Motors.

As the largest investor in Korea, the United States already has a leading presence in that country. Any agreement that can open up more Korean markets to U.S. goods and services can only have a positive effect on the American economy by creating more and better jobs, enriching consumer choice, and boosting U.S. industry and manufacturing.

But this FTA is more than simply a debate over economics; it is also recognition of our special relationship with South Korea and a strong statement that we will continue to stand with our allies, especially as we face continued uncertainty in regards to the nuclear ambitions of North Korea.

No agreement or treaty is ever perfect, as it is always a product of compromise. And I agree that Congress has a legitimate right to debate the merits of the agreement; so let's have that debate; let's take this agreement out of legislative limbo, bring it to the House Floor, have an honest up or down vote, and let the chips fall where they may, Madam Speaker. I think we owe our South Korean friends that much respect.

On the occasion of these twin anniversaries—the somber but proud commemoration of the beginning of the Korean War, and the forward-looking commemoration of the signing of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement—I ask my colleagues to join with me to salute our veterans and to celebrate the strong and enduring friendship and alliance between the good people of the Republic of Korea and the United States.

IN HONOR OF THE ST. JOHN'S
COUNCIL NO. 1345 KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS OF DUMONT-BERGEN-
FIELD CENTENNIAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the Knights of Columbus of Dumont-Bergenfield St. John's Council, No. 1345 on their Centennial Rededication. St. John's Council No. 1345 is the fourth largest council out of 300 councils in my home State of New Jersey.

Chartered on June 28, 1908, this council has been serving our community while faithfully upholding the Knights' founding principles of charity, unity, and fraternity. As a fraternal and charitable organization, part of the world's largest lay Catholic organization, the St. John's Council No. 1345 has given over \$1.2 million dollars and has provided over five hundred thousand hours in service to those in need. This group is to be commended for providing 100 years of funding and manpower not just locally in northern New Jersey, but also in service to charitable activities nationally and globally.

As the St. John's Council No. 1345 gathers to mark their centennial year, I rise in tribute and to say thank you for their contribution to making north Jersey such a fine place to live, work, and raise a family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROPERTY
MITIGATION ASSISTANCE ACT
OF 2008

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to introduce legislation to help minimize the hardship of home and business owners who are most at-risk prepare for the next, inevitable natural disaster. As people from the gulf coast and those States bordering the Atlantic Ocean are only too well aware, this year's hurricane season officially began in recent days. Once again this year, weather experts are predicting several severe storms. While the reasons for the increased number of storms remains a subject of much argument and debate, their disastrous results lie beyond dispute.

A better way exists, however, and that way is prevention. "Prevention," when it comes to storm damage, takes many forms. At-risk home and business owners can take preventive measures by "hardening" their homes and

other structures against preventable storm damage. They can strengthen their roofs, install storm shutters, elevate their electrical systems and even construct "safe rooms" within their homes.

The "Property Mitigation Assistance Act of 2008," would establish a homeowner mitigation loan program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency to promote pre-disaster property mitigation measures. The bill would provide for grants of at least \$500,000 to States based on the State's risk of natural disaster, and would authorize \$200 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 for the homeowner mitigation loan program.

Although, the challenge to rebuild in the aftermath of a natural disaster remains, there must be legislation in place to assist homeowners and businesses that are located in areas that are at risk and subject to repeated hazards or natural disasters. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider The Property Mitigation Assistance Act of 2008 and enact this legislation into law.

IN TRIBUTE TO J.D. POWER III

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to J.D. "Dave" Power III, who is retiring from the day-to-day operations of the company he founded 40 years ago, a company that revolutionized market research.

Dave Power's plunge into entrepreneurship was sparked by dissatisfaction with the way businesses then conducted market research. Armed with an MBA from Pennsylvania University's Wharton School of Business, Power went to work with big-name automotive and advertising agencies as a financial analyst and market researcher. Over the years, he became disillusioned with the quality of work he was asked to provide, likening it to "torturing the data until it confessed" instead of delving into customers' real opinions.

In 1968, Dave Power launched his company with his wife, Julie, in a rented apartment in Los Angeles. It began to take off when Power talked himself into an impromptu meeting with a visiting Japanese executive. That meeting led to a collaboration with Toyota that continues unabated today. Using research focused on how potential customers perceived Toyota, Power and Toyota built a business model that changed that perception for Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

As Toyota began hiring internal marketers, Power began conducting smaller, independent and self-funded studies on individual products. By that time, Dave, Julie and their family were operating out of their family home in Calabasas, California. Julie's role was to tabulate data from the surveys. One survey had gone out to owners of Mazda's new Wankel rotary engine. Those owner surveys showed a problem with the engine's O-ring, which was causing the engines to self-destruct after 30,000 miles. Julie showed the findings to Dave, Dave shared it with the 14 auto manufacturers who subscribed to his surveys, and one subscriber leaked it to the Wall Street Journal.

J.D. Power was on his way to becoming a household name, and Mazda joined the growing legions of industries as a subscriber. Today, nearly every major global manufacturer is a J.D. Power and Associates client and the company provides research, analysis and consulting for a wide range of global industries with offices throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, J.D. Power and Associates has made the "voice of the customer" a force to be listened to within industries around the world, providing benefits for consumers and businesses alike. While Dave has stepped away from the day-to-day operations of the firm, he will continue to be the face of J.D. Power and Associates. I know my colleagues will join me in wishing Dave and Julie well in their semi-retirement and thank Dave for building better relationships between customers and companies, resulting in positive results for both.

TRIBUTE TO JAY LINDAHL AND
MARTHA SPARKS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize volunteer firefighter Jay Lindahl of Ogden, Iowa and Martha Sparks of Boone, Iowa for their swift and heroic actions that saved a fellow Iowan's life.

While eating lunch at a restaurant in Ames, Iowa, a fellow patron began choking on her food. Martha quickly approached the distressed patron and administered the Heimlich maneuver. When it appeared as if the Heimlich wasn't working, Jay came over to the scene. He noticed the patron's color leaving her face and lack of pulse. Jay then began administering oxygen while Martha administered chest compressions. Within moments, the woman was breathing on her own and regained consciousness.

Without Martha and Jay's alertness and quick actions, this woman would possibly not be with us today. It is heroic acts like this that make this nation and its people second to none.

Martha and Jay's unselfish actions go above and beyond what we are asked of in our everyday lives, and I commend Jay Lindahl and Martha Sparks for their noble deed. I am honored to represent them both in the United States Congress, and I know my colleagues join me in recognizing their heroic actions and wishing them health and happiness in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES
SEBES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and honor of Charles Sebes, a beloved figure in Cleveland area politics and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. This past June we gathered to celebrate Chuck's retirement as Parma Democratic City Ward Leader.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Charles Sebes, upon the occasion of his retirement after twenty years of service as the Parma Democratic City Ward Leader. His unwavering dedication to the Party, to his community, and to the rights of working men and women is framed by honor and integrity.

Chuck has spent hundreds of hours volunteering on numerous political campaigns and causes throughout his life. During the past 30 years, Chuck has taken an active role in organizing the Northern Ohio Labor Day Parade. As Secretary of Parma Southwest Cope, Chuck has chaired the reverse raffle committee for the past twenty-five years. He has also been the Chairman of Parma's Democratic Steak Roast for twenty years. Chuck's devotion and enthusiasm consistently inspire those around him and has made all of these events successful.

During his twenty-two years of employment with the National Tool Company, Chuck served as President of the United Steel Workers of America, Local 4827. Governor Richard Celeste appointed Chuck to the Ohio Regional Board of Review for Worker's Compensation. In 1991, Martin Vittardi, Clerk of Parma Municipal Court, appointed Chuck to be the Chief Deputy Clerk of Court. His friendship is coveted not only by myself and Marty, but by numerous individuals whose lives have been touched by his energetic spirit, kindness and loyalty.

As Chief Deputy and Supervisor, his colleagues and staff know him to be a man who is passionate about all aspects of his life. They respect Chuck for his fairness and for being a man of his word. He believes that patience is a virtue and was reassuring that a task would get done, never hesitating to become part of the solution. They appreciate Chuck for always looking out for their best interest, fighting for what they deserve and for being valued by him. His reputation for being a prankster and for his colorful way of telling a joke is legendary. Chuck is a wise and generous man, and he is a true friend to the people in his life.

Evelyn, his wife of 52 years, and their wonderful family have sustained Chuck with a lifetime of support. Joe, Jim, Janet and Joyce, have blessed them with seven grandchildren. Chuck and Evelyn's children and grandchildren continue to be their pride and joy.

CONGRATULATING DR. LORI ARVISO ALVORD ON HER INDUCTION TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN HALL OF HONOR AT MOUNT KEARSAGE IN WARNER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord, the world's first female Navajo surgeon, on being inducted into the American Indian Hall of Honor at Mount Kearsage in Warner, New Hampshire. Her selection is a testament to her hard work and dedication to the field of medicine.

Dr. Alvord grew up in Crownpoint, New Mexico, a small town where many families had

no water or electricity. Yet her tenacity and hard work allowed her to follow her dream of becoming a surgeon. She is now affiliated with Dartmouth-Hitchcock, one of America's most prestigious hospitals, located in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Congratulations Dr. Alvord on your induction to the American Indian Hall of Honor.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN DECATUR COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Decatur County:

Pam Blasdel, Director, Emergency Management Agency

Daryl Templeton, Sheriff

Gary Herbert, Mayor, City of Greensburg

Brian Heaton, Chief of Police, City of Greensburg

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Decatur County will be well served by these officials.

HONORING ALFREDA PAULINE POSTELL ON HER 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th birthday of Alfreda Pauline Postell, a magnificent woman who has made an indelible impact on the health of Americans and whose life is an inspiration to us all.

Born in Miami, Florida, Ms. Postell is the oldest of four children born to Joyce Barry and the late Cleveland Barry, Sr. She is a proud graduate of Miami Northwestern Senior High School. Ms. Postell has two children, Joyce and Lamont Postell, Sr. She is a passionate individual who enjoys dancing and spending time with her family.

During her more than 30-year career, Ms. Postell has worked at the Miami Veterans Af-

fairs Hospital as a nurse aide and now as a medical support assistant. She enjoys volunteering for community projects and gives freely of her time. Ms. Postell has continuously held a reputation as the type of volunteer you want on your team when you want the job done. Through her might, determination and passion, she works hard to bring about positive outcomes in whatever task she endures.

Madam Speaker, in Miami we are fortunate to have Ms. Postell as a pillar of our community, and I am privileged to call her a friend. Not only is she a cherished friend, but she is also an extended member of my family. Ms. Postell's guidance, assurance and acts of kindness over the years have always been appreciated by me and my family. I join countless friends, family members and loved ones in South Florida in wishing Ms. Postell a wonderful birthday, and many more years of good health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER: CLEOPATRA GRIFFIN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, today, as co-chair of the 2008 Congressional Art Competition, I would like to proudly recognize Cleopatra Griffin, the Congressional Art Competition winner from the First District of Florida. Cleopatra represents just one of the many talented artists in my district. Ever since she was a kid she enjoyed every art form, although printmaking and drawing are her favorites. She has continually excelled working with pencil, charcoal, and paints.

This Congressional Art Competition is not the first time she has received public recognition for her abilities. Last year, her self-portrait, which now hangs in the Capitol tunnel, won first place at State competition. She has also received first place in printmaking and second place in drawing for a similar portrait piece.

Cleopatra is not only known for her artistic aptitude, but also for her involvement in school and community activities. In high school, while president of the Art Club, she raised money for Relay for Life, stuffed stockings for children around Christmas, and put a huge school-wide art show on at the end of each year.

Madam Speaker, as she moves forward in her education, I wish her continued success as she attends the California College of the Arts in San Francisco this fall and wait eagerly for her future creations.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. RICHARD PARISH IN CHICAGO, IL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th anniversary of St. Richard Parish in Chicago, IL. This upcoming Sunday, the church will hold a celebration to commemorate eight decades of community, faith,

and service, and I am pleased to congratulate the parish on reaching this impressive milestone.

As the Archer Heights community grew in the 1920s, George Cardinal Mundelein of the Archdiocese of Chicago recognized the need for a new Catholic parish in the area, and on June 8, 1928, St. Richard Parish was established.

While services were temporarily held in a storefront, men from the parish built a church on Kostner Avenue. This type of hard work and commitment has been a hallmark of the church's parishioners ever since. In 1947 St. Richard Parish School was opened and to this day provides an outstanding Catholic education for children in Archer Heights. Today, the members of St. Richard Parish continue their dedication to the community, building meeting rooms and a new parish center to provide a safe environment for area children and a focal point for the community.

From their first pastor, Reverend Horace Wellman, to their current pastor, Father Thomas Bernas, St. Richard's diverse group of parishioners continue to enrich the lives of their fellow citizens by providing the community with outreach programs, a strong school, and an unwavering commitment to their faith.

It is with great honor and privilege that I recognize the 80th anniversary of St. Richard Parish, which continues to meet the needs of parishioners and the community through liturgies, programs, and services. The parish offers spiritual direction, hope, and compassion to all of its members. I am proud to have in the Third District of Illinois such a vibrant example of the values and good works that can be provided by a church with outstanding leadership and committed parishioners. May these first 80 years be only the beginning.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 460, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SERGEANT WALTER J. MORRIS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give homage to one of America's forgotten heroes, Sergeant Walter J. Morris, the first African-American U.S. Army paratrooper and a member of the 555 Parachute Infantry Battalion or "Triple Nickels". The Triple Nickels succeeded in becoming the Nation's first African-American parachute infantry battalion and the first African-American unit to be integrated into the mainstream U.S. Army during World War II.

Sergeant Morris is a pioneer who blazed a trail that many African-American paratroopers proudly follow today. This wasn't an easy ac-

complishment in a totally segregated army. The U.S. Army had a tradition of relegating Blacks to menial jobs with very little chance for advancement. Sergeant Morris routinely required his soldier to exercise and do calisthenics after the White soldiers left the field; this led to increased stamina and confidence in the Black soldiers. These exercises led to the creation of a "test" company of Black soldiers. The Black soldiers under Sergeant Morris' leadership were so successful that the company soon became the now famous "555 Parachute Infantry Battalion". Sergeant Morris was masterful in instilling pride and a sense of accomplishments in the men he led. His efforts led to the diversity we see in the military today.

His efforts are even more impressive when you fully consider the hardships and indignities Black soldiers had to endure. As a proud Black sergeant, Sergeant Morris, with polished boots and paratrooper wings, still had to use the "colored" toilets and drinking fountains, sit in segregated sections of theaters, go out of his way to avoid confrontations with racist police and was denied entry into the post's officers' club.

After his military service, Sergeant Morris continued to live his civilian life with distinction. In keeping with his pioneering spirit, in 1968, he became the first African-American bricklayer foreman in the city of New York with the Planet Construction Company. This accomplishment was another for Sergeant Morris on the path of opening additional doors historically closed to African-Americans. In 1973, he became the first African-American construction supervisor in the city of New York, working for the Bedford-Stuyvesant Corporation in Brooklyn until his retirement in 1983.

Sergeant Morris is truly a pioneer and has led a very distinguished life. His work to help end the color barrier in the U.S. Army and his fight to have the accomplishments of Black soldiers recognized paved the way for future generations to serve in an integrated U.S. Army. His legacy also includes being the proud father of Patricia Worthy of Washington, DC, and Crystal Poole of St. Petersburg, FL.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the lifelong accomplishments of Sergeant Walter J. Morris and his relentless pursuit to create new opportunities for African-Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT MONDAVI

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 365, a resolution celebrating the accomplished life and enduring legacy of Robert Mondavi, whose vision helped propel California winemakers as leaders in the international wine market.

Robert Mondavi was born to a family of Italian immigrants on June 18, 1913. In 1923, his father moved the family to Lodi, California, to pursue an interest in the grape business. Following in his father's footsteps, a young Robert Mondavi began working at Sunny St. Helena Winery in the 1930s, and then later at

Charles Krug Winery after his father had purchased the business.

Less than three decades later, Mr. Mondavi had founded the Robert Mondavi Winery to fulfill his vision of developing world-class Napa Valley wines. He later went on to establish the first French-American wine venture, one of many international collaborations. These efforts helped to drive the Mondavi name to be synonymous with premier California wines.

However, Mr. Mondavi's accomplishments were not limited to the wine industry. His philanthropic and charitable contributions to the community, including founding the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science at the University of California at Davis, the Robert and Magrit Mondavi Center for Performing Arts at UC Davis, the Napa Valley Wine Auction, which has raised millions of dollars for local charities, and his tireless efforts for the conservation of American farmlands all have left an indelible impact on our country.

Mr. Mondavi's bold innovations laid the foundations for many of the wine growers in my Congressional District. His efforts contributed to the success of these wineries now enjoy as one of the world's pre-eminent wine making regions. Mr. Speaker, Robert Mondavi's life and leadership should be applauded, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Robert Mondavi by passing this important resolution.

ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3195, the ADA Amendments Act, I rise in strong support of the bill.

One of the most fundamental principles of our great nation is that all people, regardless of color, gender, or ability have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The ADA was passed to further this principle, and to ensure equal opportunity and access for individuals with disabilities.

When Congress passed the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, it was intended to be interpreted broadly in order to protect the rights of all individuals, regardless of ability.

Sadly, the Supreme Court ignored these intentions.

Over the last ten years, the Supreme Court has ruled that those who use mitigating measures such as medication or eyeglasses to manage their disabilities are not "disabled enough" to qualify for relief under the ADA.

Under the Court's ruling, people with conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease, cancer, and mental illness are repeatedly denied employment based on their disability, only to be denied relief for not being disabled.

This simply makes no sense.

The ADA Amendments Act will restore the original intent behind the ADA, and clarify the definition of disability to prevent future mistakes by the courts.

Americans with disabilities have been denied their civil rights for too long.

The ADA Amendments Act will restore these rights, and help protect people with disabilities from future discrimination.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3195.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6307 a bill that makes a number of critical changes to the child welfare system to better connect children in foster care with the services, healthcare and education programs they need.

This bill includes legislation I introduced earlier this year which would provide tribes with the same direct access to federal funding for foster care and adoption services that states currently receive. Under current law, funds under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act cannot go directly to tribes, leaving Indian and Alaska Native children living on tribal lands without direct access to services which are an entitlement to all other children in similar circumstances. While most tribes provide some level of basic foster care or permanency services, they are not able to provide the comprehensive level of services that children under state custody receive via Title IV-E.

My legislation, which has been included in this bill, would remedy this situation by providing equity to Native American children who are in need of foster care and adoptive services. It would do this by allowing tribes to apply to the Department of Health and Human Services to directly administer Title IV-E foster care and adoption programs.

This legislation is supported by many child welfare organizations including Child Welfare League of America, the North American Council on Adoptable Children, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Public Human Services Association as well as numerous tribes and tribal organizations.

I urge you to support H.R. 6307 to make sure that all children in foster care have a better chance at success in school and the workforce.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 372, a resolution I introduced honoring June as Black Music Month. This bill honors the outstanding contributions that African American singers, composers, producers, and musicians have made to the United States and the world.

This resolution expresses our appreciation for and the value of the contributions of African Americans to various genres of music. The roll call of African Americans who have contributed to the uniquely American born but internationally acclaimed mode of music is stellar and stunning. This music, often created

against incredible odds, has served as a chronicle of our time and enriches our Nation.

Civil rights demonstrators often marched to the cadence of "People Get Ready" or the numerous gospel or spiritual songs created in the fields by slaves. One of the most beloved gospel songs of all time is "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by Hall of Fame composer and writer Thomas Dorsey. The music of African Americans is the music of America, and has historically transcended social, economic and racial barriers to unite people of all backgrounds. Young America danced to the rhythm of the sound that emanated from Stax Records of Memphis, Chess Records of Chicago, and from my home town of Detroit, Michigan, through Motown.

Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, The Four Tops, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Jackie Wilson, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Anita Baker, and The Temptations are just a few of the tremendously talented artists that hail from the great city of Detroit. Detroit is the also the birthplace of music mogul Berry Gordy's great Motown empire. Motown ushered in a new wave of talent and music across the world. The Motown Sound was brilliantly and meticulously crafted in what is now Hitsville, USA, the original Motown studio located in my district. The impeccable standards of excellence in craftsmanship set Motown and Detroit apart as trailblazers in several musical genres, as recognized through their numerous Grammy Awards, NAACP Awards and other accolades. Motown did far more than produce music. It broke substantial barriers to help to unite the world across race, class and gender lines.

Although Motown has received the most international acclaim for the music produced during the infamous Motown era that spanned decades, Detroiters have also made other tremendous contributions to the musical world. The historical Black Bottom district was a hub for big bands and legendary jazz artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and Duke Ellington. Detroit is also well known for its immense contributions to gospel music. Reverend C.L. Franklin, Della Reese, The Winans and the Clarke Sisters all have roots in the City of Detroit.

Detroit's copious musical history and myriad of noteworthy, award-winning contributions have instilled a great sense of pride in all of its citizens and, hopefully, all Americans. Take some time during the month of June to exhibit said pride and honor all those Black artists that made indelible contributions to the soundtrack of our lives. Give honor to whom honor is due. Join me in spending this month immersing yourself and your loved ones of all ages in the rich array of music that African-Americans have contributed to our great Nation. I encourage all Americans to utilize the celebrations to honor the men and women who have created some of the most influential music our Nation has ever produced. I also want to honor the radio stations and the DJs, like Frankie Darcell, that play this timeless and wonderful music. As we spend time recognizing the contributions of these artists, let us remember that this music is not just African-American music. This music is American music—an integral part of all Americans' heritage.

NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of National Homeownership Month. This month marks the 40th anniversary of the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act, which opened the dialogue of equal homeowner opportunities and growth. The National Homeownership Month continues with the same principles by promoting the very core of American values of fairness, opportunity, and growth.

National Homeownership Month reflects the importance of homeownership and the American dream. For most Americans, owning their own home will be their largest and most significant financial investment. It represents security, builds neighborhood pride, and is essential in creating positive productive communities.

National Homeownership Month focuses on creating affordable housing opportunities for all and economy sustainability. Home affordability and financial education is the key to overcoming the housing crisis and promoting good housing practices and policies. Financial education not only directly benefits American families, but, in turn, helps to ensure a robust and strong economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we continue to empower people of all races, economic status, and backgrounds who desire to own their own home. It is a valuable stabilizer for both families and communities.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6307, the Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2008.

First, let me thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for their leadership and bipartisanship in crafting this effort to assist children and families in our Nation's child welfare system.

Madam Speaker, young people in the child welfare system have done nothing wrong. They are victims of abuse and neglect. H.R. 6307 will provide Federal support for kinship care, increase adoption incentives, and provide assistance for foster youth up to age 21. This bill opens the door by addressing many issues facing children in foster care and those who care for them.

I am particularly proud that our Subcommittee Chairman, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) shared the words of my constituent, Mr. Anthony Reeves, a former foster care youth about the importance of making these changes. I am honored to have another outstanding young woman and former foster care youth from Georgia,

Ms. Brittany Scott, interning in my congressional office this summer. When you see their passion and determination to commit, work, and act to change the lives of their friends, siblings, and the Nation's way of serving those most in need, you know we must take action.

This legislation is good; it is right. But we can do better, and we must do better. Across the country, case workers lack proper training and are overworked and underpaid. Foster children are expelled from the system at 18 with little to no support. Kinship care providers and adoptive parents lack support when caring for foster children. And when programs are in place they are often fragile because of lack of funding. We need to help those on the front lines.

One of the major components of Mr. McDERMOTT's broader child welfare reform bill that I support is revising the so-called "look back" provision. Using an outdated 1996 Federal standard to determine poverty levels is a major reason that children are denied Title IV-E assistance in Georgia. Currently, only half of the abused and neglected children in foster care across the country are eligible for Title IV-E funding.

States continue to lack the funding needed to adequately improve services to youth in the child welfare system. States also face drastic cuts to the social services they provide as a result of the Deficit Reduction Act. These are just some of the many challenges that face our Nation's child welfare systems. We cannot afford to ignore them any longer.

We need to look across the board at new and diverse ways to make the process work better. We must come together and do what is right for America's foster care youth. Again, I applaud my Ways and Means colleagues for this strong bipartisan effort. I look forward to continuing to work with them on improving services, support, and assistance for those most in need.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 6307.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I would also like to clarify a number of aspects of this legislation on behalf of myself and the distinguished Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SMITH.

We have faced substantial challenges in reconciling fundamentally different philosophies on how to modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). The text of H.R. 6304 was carefully, deliberately crafted on a bipartisan basis to reconcile these differences. Other statements by media reports, or the reports or work product of any of outside groups reflect their own views and should not be construed as determinative guidance with respect to legislative intent. While the text of the bill ultimately controls interpretation of the bill, we would like to note our understanding of H.R. 6304 as the Ranking Members of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary respectively on three matters within this legislation.

ROLE OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT

The authority of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) or any court in approving foreign intelligence collection generally, and specifically the surveillance of foreigners located in other countries, was an issue of great debate during negotiations and the resulting text was delicately constructed. For the first time ever, this bill will statutorily insert the FISA court in a limited way into the Executive's Constitutional authority to collect foreign intelligence information targeting foreign persons in foreign countries. This unprecedented move was an accommodation to those who believed that the court could provide some sort of additional check to ensure that the IC is properly using its procedures to target a foreigner abroad and to minimize U.S. person information that may be incidentally obtained. There is no mechanism included in the text that would provide for a probable cause or similar type of review that the FISC has done in the past with respect to traditional FISA applications, but rather a method for the FISC to verify that the Intelligence Community is following the law and its own procedures when it targets foreigners abroad for surveillance under this law. The FISC is also required to approve procedures developed and used by the Intelligence Community. It is important for the FISC to adhere to the limited role set forth in the text of this bill, and to recognize that it is a different role from that which it has traditionally held with regard to traditional, individual FISA applications. This should not be construed as an opening to insert the courts further into foreign intelligence matters that properly lie within the Executive's purview.

It is also important to note the flexibility that remains with the Executive Branch to prevent gaps from forming in the future that are similar to those we saw last August before the Protect America Act was passed. This bill permits the Attorney General and Director of National Intelligence to immediately authorize intelligence collection, as provided for under the law, upon a determination that "exigent circumstances" exist. While the text of the bill uses the term "exigent circumstances," the use of this term is not intended to implicate in any way the use of that term in criminal procedure jurisprudence as an exception to the Fourth Amendment warrant requirement. See, e.g., *U.S. v. Karo*, 468 U.S. 705 (1984); *Warden v. Hayden*, 387 U.S. 294 (1967); *McDonald v. U.S.*, 335 U.S. 451 (1948). Rather, section 702 specifically defines its use of the term "exigent circumstances" for purposes of targeting a foreign person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States as those circumstances that will result in the loss or failure to timely acquire intelligence important to the national security of the United States. The compromise text was delicately drafted and reaching compromise on the bill was premised, in part, on maintaining flexibility for the Intelligence Community to immediately initiate surveillance in situations where intelligence may be lost, or not gathered in time to act on in a way that best protects the United States. This section is designed to prevent the type of intelligence gaps that put us in a critical situation during the summer of 2007.

EXCLUSIVE MEANS

Section 102 of the bill provides that the procedures in FISA and in the relevant provisions

of the federal criminal code are the exclusive means for electronic surveillance. It is important to note that section 102 of H.R. 6304 denotes the statutory exclusive means for acquiring foreign surveillance. In enacting this section, Congress did not intend legislatively abrogate any inherent Article II powers of the Executive Branch. See *In re Sealed Case No. 02-001* (FISCR 2002) (citing the holding in *U.S. v. Truong Dinh Hung*, 629 F.2d 908 (4th Cir. 1980) that the President has inherent authority to conduct warrantless searches to obtain foreign intelligence information).

PROTECTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

The provisions in Title II set forth a process under which the Federal district courts would have jurisdiction to review both prospective and retroactive claims relating to alleged assistance to the intelligence community. The standard and type of review by the courts with respect to the retroactive liability protections were issues of great and delicate debate while this bill was being drafted. Careful and lengthy discussions took place about which court would review the Attorney General certifications, what the certifications would contain, and what the standard of review would be, and all of these considerations culminated in the text of H.R. 6304 as it passed the House on June 20, 2008.

With respect to retroactive liability protection, the Attorney General must certify to the district court that one of two situations is present. Either the assistance alleged to have been provided by the carrier was authorized by the President, designed to detect or prevent a terrorist attack against the U.S. after the September 11th attacks, and was the subject of a written request or series of requests to the carrier, or the carrier did not provide the alleged assistance. The aforementioned written request or series of requests must have informed the communications provider that the activity requested was authorized by the President, and was determined to be lawful.

The statute expressly requires the Attorney General's certification to be given effect unless the court finds that the Attorney General's certification is not supported by substantial evidence that the statutorily required elements of the certification have been fulfilled. The provision also allows the court to review only certain specified supplemental materials (any relevant court order, certification, written request or directive) when considering the certification, and permits plaintiffs or defendants in civil actions to participate in briefing or argument of legal issues to the extent that such participation does not require the disclosure of classified information to such parties. Careful consideration went into the drafting of this provision, and the final text is very clear about what the federal district court may consider in its review under this section. The bill is intended to require and authorize the district courts to review exactly what the text of H.R. 6304 specifies, which does not include a review of the underlying legal basis for any representations that may have been made in a written request or series of requests for assistance to a company during the life of the Terrorist Surveillance Program. Rather, these provisions were intended to ensure that any companies that may have provided assistance to the government did so based on their good faith reliance on specified representations made to it by the Government.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this bill provides mechanisms to ensure that FISA's longstanding exclusivity is crystal clear. It states that only a new statute directly addressing the Executive branch's foreign intelligence surveillance authority can modify FISA. It provides clarity for the public and for telecommunications carriers by requiring requests for assistance to cite the statutory authority under which they are issued.

In a January 19, 2006 White Paper on NSA Legal Authorities, the Justice Department made public a legal justification for the President's Terrorist Surveillance Program, TSP. It claimed that the President had an extra-statutory legal basis for foreign intelligence surveillance outside of FISA, both implicitly through an Authorization for the Use of Military Force or through a broad reading of Article II of the Constitution. Those arguments fly in the face of the longstanding doctrine of FISA exclusivity and are contrary to the plain language of the FISA statute. To be clear, the inclusion of these additional exclusivity mechanisms in this measure does not ratify the Administration's arguments with respect to the TSP. Nor does the bill's treatment of liability issues in Title II stand for a Congressional ratification of the Administration's actions under the TSP.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to a few additional staff who worked tirelessly over the past few months on this FISA compromise, including Margaret Cantrell of the Whip's staff, Ted Kalo and Mark Dubester of the Judiciary Committee, Wyndee Parker of the Intelligence Committee, and Chris Healey of Senator ROCKEFELLER's Intelligence Committee staff.

COMMENDING DR. RAY
AUTHEMENT UPON HIS RETIRE-
MENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT
LAFAYETTE

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, after 34 devoted years as president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Ray Authement retired this month. A legend in higher education, he stood as the longest serving university president in the country. The significant changes to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and for the city of Lafayette demonstrate his invaluable service to the school and the greater community.

As the university's chief, Dr. Authement is credited with producing nationally recognized programs for computer science, Francophone studies, and environmental and biological research at UL Lafayette during his tenure. He supervised the construction of a significant portion of the campus, including Lafayette's Cajundome and convention center. And, most notably, he is responsible for raising the uni-

versity's stature academically, spearheading higher enrollment requirements and recruiting highly qualified faculty and staff.

His vision and commitment for the school shaped lifetimes for the thousands of alumni, like myself, for which we are forever grateful.

Dr. Authement's vision for UL Lafayette first manifested itself as he pushed to develop a computer science program during the new technology's infancy. His leadership drove the university to create the first Master's program in the United States for computer science, defining a cutting-edge path for the university's future growth. The nationally recognized computer science program continues to maintain this distinction since the 1980s.

When Authement began his tenure in Lafayette, the school was officially known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Dr. Authement recognized the misperception by many of the institution as simply a regional school. Perspective students, potential employers and many across the State failed to consider the school as a top-tier university, and as a result, the school was unable to flourish fully.

After a protracted fight with the State legislature and other State leaders, Authement successfully changed the school's name to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1999. Most importantly, the new name conveys the prominence of the university. In bonding the university to the city in the title, Authement highlighted the connection between Lafayette and the school.

Dr. Authement leaves the university a much better place. One of his final projects, the Capital Outlay program, which outlines construction and renovation for 5 years, enables UL Lafayette the opportunity to continue its growth. The plan increases the university's foundation endowment from \$600,000 to \$140 million. A chief component of the project's success was Authement's famed fiscal responsibility, which inspired enormous confidence that donations would be used wisely.

Enabling the success and achievements of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Authement developed and maintained an impressive reputation for the school. His dedication to improving Lafayette encouraged the city to greater heights. The legacy Dr. Authement leaves behind at UL Lafayette and in the community is everlasting as the students who carry the university's banner are attributable to his good work.

I wish he and his wife Barbara all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives together, and I thank both of them for their commitment to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

RECOGNIZING TOM STEVENS,
SHARON NEVITT AND JEANNIE
DIVINE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary congressional service of three individuals who will be leaving the United States Capitol Guide Service at the end of June. Tom Stevens, Sharon Nevitt and Jeannie Divine

have together provided 87 years of service to Congress, and their departure will certainly leave a void that is difficult to fill.

Tom Stevens has served as the Director of Visitor Services, charged with managing our dedicated crew of Capitol Guide Service and Congressional Special Services employees. He first came to the Guide Service in March 1985, and has served as the head of this organization since 2003. Tom has done an outstanding job, managing the group that provides assistance to literally thousands of visitors who come to the U.S. Capitol from around this Nation and the world every day. In addition, Tom has worked tirelessly to help plan and prepare for the opening of the Capitol Visitor Center.

Sharon Nevitt has served the Guide Service since November 1977, in a variety of management positions, and she currently is the Assistant Director of the Guide Service. Her commitment to this institution has been dedicated and extraordinary. Working side by side with Tom Stevens, Sharon has worked diligently over the past few years to ensure that the transition to operations in the Capitol Visitor Center will be successful and beneficial for all of our visitors.

Jeannie Divine joined the Capitol Guide Service in May 1988, coming directly from 13 years of service with the Architect of the Capitol. Jeannie is part of the fabric of this institution, as she is one of the unheralded staffers who work with our offices every day to schedule tours and coordinate the many visits we have by constituents. She has done a difficult job with consummate professionalism and ceaseless good humor.

Madam Speaker, we are indeed fortunate to have had the services of these dedicated individuals. Their work on the behalf of our constituents and visitors has been exemplary and I invite my colleagues to wish them well in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF HOMELAND SECURITY RELIEF CORPS ACT OF 2008

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, last Friday, 121 truckloads of needed Household supplies arrived in the Gulf Coast for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Though these supplies are surely still welcome, they arrived 3 years late.

Tragically, at the same time that 90,000 "living kits" were distributed by FEMA in Louisiana, other Americans, this time in the Midwest, have experienced a trauma of their own, as flood waters rose and levee after levee was breached. Resources—whether human, financial, or equipment—must be made available immediately to the American people in need, whether that need is a result of storms, floods, terrorist attacks, and other emergencies.

A recent Mason Dixon poll indicates that some residents of hurricane-vulnerable states say they will not evacuate and prefer to weather storms at home. Furthermore, the results of the poll indicate that many residents lack disaster plans and are still misinformed about how to protect themselves and their

families during a storm. These results are particularly troubling when we consider how many citizens of the Gulf Coast did not have plans and were forced to accept relocation to toxic trailers.

The Homeland Security Relief Corps Act of 2008 will ensure that the areas ravaged by Katrina will not go unattended by providing trained workers to engage in actual rebuilding efforts. This bill will assist us in addressing some of the harms caused by Katrina.

As introduced, the Homeland Security Relief Corps Act will establish a much needed Response and Recovery Corps within the Department of Homeland Security. The Corps members will receive core training in emergency response, post-incident recovery, and rebuilding efforts. Equipped with the knowledge and preparation needed to make the disaster recovery process more efficient, the Corps members will be of tremendous assistance to the ravaged areas.

With the floods in the Midwest and the other disasters this Nation has seen since Katrina, it is time for citizens to get more involved in disaster response and recovery. This bill provides a path to the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast and provides hope for quicker recovery for residents of other ravaged areas.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN RUSH COUNTY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district which was devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor the Board of Commissioners and County Council, as well as these outstanding individuals in Rush County:

Mike Ooley, Director, Emergency Management Agency.

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff.

Merv Bostic, Mayor, City of Rushville.

Ron D. Cameron, Chief of Police, City of Rushville.

These areas suffered greatly from severe storms and weather, creating a catastrophe of nature that inflicted injuries, destroyed property, and displaced many of our citizens. In response, these officials went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

Madam Speaker, I commend these fine men and women for their tremendous dedication to the Hoosier families, businesses, farmers and communities that they serve. As Hoosiers continue to recover from Mother Nature's fury, I feel confident that the people of Rush County will be well served by these officials.

SUPPORTING THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the decision made by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold an individual's right to keep and bear arms. Today, the Court rightly struck down the ban on handguns in the District of Columbia. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have co-sponsored legislation to end this ban, which contradicts the Second Amendment rights guaranteed to all Americans by the U.S. Constitution.

In issuing its decree, the Court protected the right of a sportsman to have a shotgun in his home and affirmed the right of a homeowner to keep a handgun to protect his family and property from intruders. Our Founding Fathers fought and died for the individual liberties we all enjoy—among them, the right of the citizens of this country to possess firearms.

We are not given the latitude to pick which of those liberties we choose to follow or enforce, be it the freedom to speak or the freedom to worship. Like those fundamental freedoms, we cannot dismiss or dilute the right to keep and bear arms.

As an avid hunter and strong gun rights advocate, I applaud the Court for its decision. I look forward to continuing our work in Congress to protect the integrity of the Second Amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE 2008 JEFFERSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE HONOREES FROM MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Jefferson Award for Public Service from the great state of Mississippi. Nancy Collins of Tupelo, Mississippi, one of only 5 national honorees, and the 4 local winners Robert Davison of Steens, Mississippi, Claire Crawford, Armondo de la Cruz, and Cooper Kennard all of Starkville, Mississippi.

The Jefferson Award for Public Service is presented to the most dedicated and hard working of our nation's volunteers. Last week, I had the tremendous honor of attending the 2008 National Jefferson Awards Ceremony in Washington, where Nancy Collins was awarded one of only 5 national awards.

Ms. Collins was instrumental in getting funding for Sanctuary Hospice House and was also a co-founder, realizing her goal of providing physical and spiritual care to the terminally ill. She was inspired by a visit to a similar hospice she visited in Mexico. To date the Sanctuary Hospice House, located in Tupelo, has served more than 600 people and has been an invaluable resource for the families and patients in its care.

Ms. Collins and her fellow honorees are the embodiment of public service. I am honored for Ms. Collins to represent North Mississippi

with her dedication to the community. Please join me today in congratulating Ms. Collins for this prestigious recognition of her contributions to the greater good.

THE DAILY 45: A PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR SOME IN TODAY'S SUPREME COURT RULING

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, since February of this year, on virtually every day the House has been in session, I have decried the senseless loss of life, due to gun violence, for what I call the forgotten "Daily 45." This number refers to the fact that, on average, 45 people are fatally shot in the United States at the hands of an assailant or, worse, a loved one with a gun.

There's still no national outrage at the fact that this number dwarfs the number of fatalities—Iraqi and American—that lose their lives daily, or even weekly, in the Iraq war zone! And, in the midst of all this, Madam Speaker, today, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that residents in the District of Columbia have an individual right to own and maintain a gun in their homes. This decision will negate the efforts made by D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, and the Metropolitan Police Department, to reduce the skyrocketing murder rate as a result of firearms.

I don't know what community the Justices live in but in my community, on the South Side of Chicago, there will be no celebrations in praise of this pyrrhic victory. Unfortunately, I can guarantee you that, tonight, some parent, some brother, some sister or some community leader will, once again, cry out in agony at the loss of yet another life from the violence wrought by a gun.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL FRANK SACKTON (RETIRED)

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of retired Lieutenant General Frank J. Sackton in honor of his upcoming 96th birthday. Leading a life of service to his country and the State of Arizona, Frank has shown himself to be a man of honor, intelligence, and dedication.

Frank served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, retiring as a Lieutenant General in 1970. In 1945, Sackton was personally decorated and promoted by General Douglas MacArthur to Colonel on the battlefield in the Philippines. He later served three years as Secretary of the General Staff for General MacArthur during the occupation in postwar Japan. Frank has fought valiantly to protect this Nation, and I am deeply grateful for his service.

For 25 years, Sackton, a Ph.D., has served Arizona State University as honorably as he did our country. He was the founding dean of the College of Public Programs, vice president for business affairs, athletic director, and then professor. Although technically retired, Sackton still teaches a class every semester at ASU. He utilizes his creativity and passion for teaching to create classes that are popular among his students, opting for interactive case studies over the traditional format of textbook reading and lectures.

He also helped secure a brighter environmental and economic future for Arizona, working for three years as Governor Jack Williams' special assistant for energy planning and economic development.

Frank remains committed to contributing to his community. He is active at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, has addressed the Rotary Club on several occasions, and often visits the Children's Center at Scottsdale Healthcare to cheer up the children who are ill.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Frank Sackton on nearly a century of service.

JACK BROWN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jack Brown, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Brown will retire from the St. Joseph, Missouri Fire Department after an impressive 38-year career with the department.

Chief Brown was named the 15th Fire Chief in the St. Joseph Fire Department's history in September of 2003. Previously he served in many capacities, including Battalion Chief and Captain. Chief Brown is also the recipient of three life-saving awards during his career.

Jack is someone that I developed a personal friendship with, as we had the opportunity to work together on various issues. He is a sincere, honest individual that never wanted any of the accolades; he always felt he was just doing his job. You knew when visiting with Jack that firefighting was not a career, but rather a passion. Chief Brown is a stand-up individual, who will be truly missed by the St. Joseph Fire Department, the St. Joseph community and all those who had the opportunity to work with him.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jack Brown, whose dedication and service to the citizens of St. Joseph, Missouri has been truly exceptional. It is truly an honor to serve Chief Brown in the United States Congress.

HONORING COLONEL RICHARD J. MASON, JR.

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, COL Richard J. Mason, Jr. demonstrated exceptional meritorious service from 30 June 2005

to 10 July 2008 as Commander of Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), a 15,000 acre depot in Richmond, Kentucky. He was responsible for the production, receipt, storage, issue, maintenance and demilitarization of conventional munitions.

Serving as the consummate depot commander, Colonel Mason oversaw an organization that supported the troops with ammunition and Chemical Defense Equipment. He safeguarded and ensured the operational readiness of a munitions stockpile while executing the shipping and receiving of over 250,000 short tons of munitions.

As the sole provider chemical personnel equipment, Colonel Mason's untiring efforts to improve support to the troops were superb. By eliminating erroneous shipments to incorrect locations, the cost of transportation was reduced by over 30 percent and ability to provide equipment to soldiers on the battlefield increased significantly without requiring additional manpower. Specifically, Colonel Mason's efforts to support the fielding of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) armor kits to the troops were commendable.

He contributed to the future of the BGAD by developing its first Strategic Business Plan which integrated all aspects of logistics and business processes while providing a clear vision for the Depot's future. He also initiated a continuous business improvement culture across the Depot by improving processes, reducing costs, eliminating waste and improving ergonomics and safety.

A native of Oldtown, Maryland, Colonel Mason arrived at Blue Grass Army Depot in July 2005 as a highly regarded and decorated leader in the Army. Prior to arriving at BGAD, Colonel Mason served as the Chief of Support for Task Force Sinai in El Gora, Egypt among other leadership positions in the United States and Germany. Colonel Mason's Change of Command will take place July 10, 2008.

IN HONOR OF E. PAT LARKINS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true friend and leader who is widely respected, and much loved by the citizens of Pompano Beach, Florida, The Honorable E. Pat Larkins. Pat was born in Pompano Beach in 1942. He graduated Blanche Ely High School in 1960 and enrolled in Tennessee State University. In 1962, he was hired as housing director for the local community action agency, and in 1969, he was one of only two Florida recipients of a Ford Foundation fellowship to attend the National Housing Institute in Washington, DC.

Pat was subsequently certified by HUD as a housing development specialist, and in 1970, he went to work for the Foundation for Co-Op Housing in Chicago, Illinois. In 1972, he returned to Florida and created the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition, Inc. where he still serves as C.E.O. He is also currently president and partner of Malar Construction, State licensed general contractors.

In addition to these accomplishments, Pat has also had a long career in the public sector and has helped to change the face of local

politics. He was the first chairperson of the City of Pompano Beach Community Development Committee. In 1982, he was the second African-American elected to the Pompano Beach City Commission. He was just the eighth African-American local elected official in Broward County and served 19 consecutive years as city commissioner. In that time, he served a record seven terms as mayor and three terms as vice-mayor, positions to which he was elected by his fellow Commissioners. He also served an unprecedented 14 consecutive years on the Broward County Planning Council and was the first African-American chair of that body.

After an unsuccessful run for Broward County Commission in 2001, Pat Larkins was reelected to the Pompano Beach City Commission in 2003 where he presently serves as vice-mayor. Pat is sometimes referred to as the dean of Broward black elected officials because of his remarkable leadership and role as one of the founders of that group.

He is also recognized throughout the State as a leader and spokesperson for minority involvement in government and business. During his time as mayor of Pompano Beach, the city hired the first black fire chief and first black city clerk in Broward County. Pat initiated the city ordinance to promote minority small business concerns, and along with two others, helped to create the first minority business enterprise program for Broward County government.

In addition to his many professional achievements, Pat Larkins has also taken an active role in countless public service, social, and religious organizations. He is a life member of the NAACP, serves on the Broward County Boys and Girls Club corporate board, the Juvenile Justice Intensive Halfway House, and the Florida black caucus local elected officials, and is a longtime member of Hopewell Baptist Church. He is a founding member of the Urban League board, as well as a leader in the Superintendents' Commission on Public Education, National Black Mayors' Conference, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Madam Speaker, Pat Larkins has had an indelible impact on the well-being of his community, as he has worked tirelessly to ensure that every individual has access to safe and adequate housing. Under his leadership, Pompano Beach recently demolished a 140-home development that had been rundown and falling apart and relocated the owners to a modern development of affordable homes on an even swap arrangement at a considerable cost savings to the city. Over the past 5 years, he has led his city in providing financial and other assistance that has resulted in the erection of more than 800 affordable multifamily units.

Pat has often said that he wants to be remembered not for his personal longevity, but most of all for helping to improve the lives of others. In this, he has certainly succeeded. Few people I have known have accomplished so much for the good of their fellow citizens and their community. I am fortunate to call him my friend.

HONORING LARRY WILEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Sgt. Larry Wiley of Grayling, Michigan. Sgt. Wiley will be retiring from the Michigan State Police on June 28, 2008. As a former Michigan State Trooper, I have a special appreciation for the service of public servants like Sgt. Wiley, and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in paying tribute to his 26 years of service for the Michigan State Police.

Sgt. Wiley is happily married to his wife, Patty. Together, they have raised four wonderful daughters. Law enforcement runs thick in his blood, as his brother, James Wiley, was also a member of the Michigan State Police.

Prior to joining the Michigan State Police, Sgt. Wiley served in the U.S. Air Force from 1975 to 1979. While in the Air Force, Sgt. Wiley worked as a dog handler for the security police. After his service in Texas, Illinois and the Philippines, Sgt. Wiley was honorably discharged and moved to Michigan, where he went to work for the Michigan State Police in 1982.

Since joining the department, he has served at many posts and in many functions in his 26 years, and his dedicated service is truly commendable. He was stationed in Bridgeport and Detroit before being promoted to Sergeant at his post in L'Anse in 1988. After being stationed in Negaunee, Kalkaska and Houghton Lake, Sgt. Wiley served for 10 years with the Strike Team Investigate Narcotics Group in West Branch, helping to combat the flow of illegal drugs in five surrounding counties.

Madam Speaker, the dedicated men and women who dutifully enforce the law to protect their communities rarely receive the praise they deserve. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in congratulating Sgt. Larry Wiley on a job well done and in wishing him well in his retirement.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, today I am joining with 18 other committee chairs to introduce legislation to strengthen the authority of the Government Accountability Office.

GAO assists Congress in identifying waste, fraud, and abuse in federal programs and recommending ways to make government work better. Because of its vital role, GAO needs unfettered access to federal agencies. Efforts by executive branch officials to withhold information from GAO impedes Congress' ability to legislate effectively.

One key provision in the bill clarifies that Congress authorizes GAO to pursue civil actions if federal agencies or the White House improperly withhold federal records.

In litigation arising from GAO's efforts to obtain information about the operations of the Cheney energy task force, a federal district court held that the Comptroller General lacked standing to enforce GAO's right to information. This case, called *Walker v. Cheney*, was wrongly decided and misconstrued congressional intent regarding the role of the Comptroller General. The decision was also an improper invasion into Congress' constitutional prerogatives to determine how best to carry out its investigative responsibilities.

While I am confident that another court considering this issue would reach a different decision, passing new legislation to clarify GAO's authority is the most expedient way to restore the authority of the Comptroller General. For this reason, this bill contains express authorization from Congress to the Comptroller General to pursue litigation if documents are improperly withheld from GAO. In effect, this provision represents a legislative repudiation of the court's decision in *Walker v. Cheney*.

Other provisions of this important bill give GAO the express authority to interview federal employees when conducting evaluations and investigations and expand GAO's authority to administer oaths.

The bill further enhances GAO authorities by clarifying its right to important records to which it has been denied access. These include records at the Federal Drug Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Federal Trade Commission.

Finally, the bill creates a reporting mechanism so that Congress will be more fully informed when federal agencies do not cooperate with GAO. These reports will be important tools to improve GAO's oversight capability.

GAO provides invaluable assistance to Congress by helping Congress understand how federal agencies are performing their duties. This legislation helps ensure that GAO has the authorities it needs to carry out these crucial responsibilities.

BOGUS WITHDRAWAL RESOLUTION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, on June 25, 2008, the Committee on Natural Resources adopted a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to make an emergency withdrawal of more than one million acres of land in Arizona from the operation of the mining laws, jeopardizing significant reserves of critical high-grade sources of uranium for clean-burning nuclear power plants. The Committee passed this resolution without a quorum present in violation of House and Committee rules, as documented by the 20-2 roll call vote on the motion to adopt. In addition, the Republicans had vacated the markup in protest of what is an unconstitutional measure, and so this vote reflects only those of Democratic members. The resolution therefore clearly does not reflect the views of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The majority marked up the resolution even though the use of this authority under section 204(e) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act is clearly unconstitutional. This view is supported by an informal opinion of the Jus-

tice Department issued in 1983 as well as a recent analysis by the Congressional Research Service. I reproduce the Justice Memorandum below and have appended the conclusion of the CRS American Law Division.

There is no emergency. If there was, the Secretary of the Interior would use his own power to make an emergency withdrawal. The reality is that the majority could not pass actual legislation locking up these millions of acres of public lands from resource development—in an area where there are already many mining claims.

This resolution is a toothless act of political theater. I hope that Interior Secretary Kempthorne gives it all the deference it deserves—none.

Subject: Legislative Veto Provision Contained in §204(e) of FLPMA.

Date: September 12, 1983.

From: Name: Ralph W. Tarr, Office Symbol: OLC.

Statement: This memorandum memorializes the oral advice I recently conveyed to the Solicitor's Office of the Interior Department concerning conclusions we reached as to the legislative veto provision contained in §204(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. §1714(e). That section provides in pertinent part that the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of either House of Congress (subsequently designated as the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate) may notify the Secretary of the Interior ("Secretary") that an emergency situation exists and direct the Secretary to withdraw certain public lands from disposition under laws pertaining to mineral leasing.

Previous litigation under this provision followed a Resolution of May 21, 1981, by the House Committee, directed to the Secretary, for the withdrawal of certain lands in the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas. This Office determined, and the Department subsequently took the position in that litigation, that §204(e) was unconstitutional insofar as it authorized a Committee of either House to direct the Secretary to take an action which would change the status of public lands. It was our view that the provision, as legislative action, violated the Bicameralism and Presentment Clauses, Art. I, §1, and Art. I, §7, cl. 2 and 3, and, as executive action, violated principles of separation of powers and the Incompatibility Clause, Art. I, §6. See generally Memorandum in Support of Federal Defendants' Cross-Motion to Dismiss and/or for Summary Judgment and in Response to Memorandum in Support of Plaintiffs' Motions for Summary Judgment in *Pacific Legal Foundation v. Watt*, Civil No. 81-141BLG, and *Mountain States Legal Foundation v. Watt*, Civil No. 81-168-BLG (D. Mont.).

The Department's Memorandum submitted to the court at that time also concluded that the portion of §204(e), which provided for the committee veto was severable from the Secretary's leasing authority, which is contained in entirely different and earlier statutes, and from the Secretary's authority under §204(e) to withdraw lands on his own initiative. Section 707 of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. §1701 note, provides that if any provision or its application of the Act is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and its application shall not be affected. See, e.g., *Champlin Refining Co. v. Corporation Commission of Oklahoma*, 286 U.S. 210 (1932), quoted with approval in *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 108-109 (1976).

In the court decision which resulted, the district court upheld §204(e) against the separation of powers challenge, on the ground

that the scope and duration of a withdrawal order under §204(e) were within the Secretary's discretion, subject to judicial review. The court did not view §204(e) as a veto provision and thus did not address the bicameralism and presentment issues. The court added, however, that if the section were interpreted to permit a congressional committee, by majority vote, to direct the Secretary to withdraw wilderness areas until the date specified in the Resolution, the committee action would be, in effect, an attempt to amend the Wilderness Act of 1964, and would be unconstitutional under the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Chadha v. INS*, 634 F.2d 408 (9th Cir. 1980). See *Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) v. Watt*, 529 F. Supp. 982 (D. Mont. 1982), on reconsideration, 539 F. Supp. 1194 (D. Mont. 1982) (final order of Aug. 31, 1982, unpublished).

The constitutionality of the legislative veto device has since been firmly and finally decided. *INS v. Chadha*, 51 U.S.L.W. 4907 (June 23, 1983); *Consumer Energy Council v. FERC*, 673 F.2d 425 (D.C. Cir. 1982), aff'd, 51 U.S.L.W. 3935 (June 29, 1983), *Consumers Union v. FTC*, 691 F.2d 575 (D.C. Cir. 1982), aff'd, 51 U.S.L.W. 3935 (June 29, 1983). There remains no doubt that the power to direct withdrawal of lands granted to a single Congressional Committee by §204(e) is, by its terms, a legislative veto and is unconstitutional under *Chadha*.

At the request of Interior, this Office examined §204(e) and the relevant case law in conjunction with a Resolution of August 3, 1983, by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, which purported to direct the Secretary to withdraw lands in the Fort Union Coal Region of Montana and North Dakota. We determined and advised Interior that the Resolution passed pursuant to §204(e) purporting to direct withdrawal was unconstitutional as a legislative veto and was not salvageable under the construction of the court in *PLF v. Watt*. We further determined and advised that constitutional failure of the veto provision has no effect on the substantive authority granted to the Secretary of Interior by the statutes.

Congressional Research Service, Memorandum, June 20, 2008.

SUBJECT: Constitutional Issues with §204(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended.

... For there to be a legal obligation to withdraw land imposed on the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to §204(e), the [*INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919 (1983)] decision requires that actions of Congress comply with both the bicameralism and presentment clauses of the Constitution. The single committee resolution contemplated by §204(e) does not satisfy these requirements and, therefore, cannot be said to impose any legal obligation on the Secretary to withdraw land. Accordingly, should such a resolution be adopted it appears likely that the Secretary would be well within his authority to interpret it as informational and/or advisory in nature and, thus, will be able to avoid taking the actions contemplated under the statute. Should Congress wish to impose a binding legal obligation on the Secretary it could opt either to pass a joint resolution or a bill, both of which satisfy the bicameralism and presentment requirements of Article I, as they would need to be presented to the President for his signature or veto (and in the case of a veto be overridden) to have the necessary effect of mandating that the Secretary withdraw land.

RETIREMENT OF MR. RICARDO SANCHEZ FROM THE CORPUS CHRISTI RTA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ricardo Sanchez of Corpus Christi, TX on his retirement from the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority.

Ricardo has been an excellent public servant for the Coastal Bend and has dedicated his professional career to improve the transportation infrastructure of South Texas.

Ricardo has over 27 years of professional and managerial experience in public transportation. He started his career in public transportation with Houston Metro in 1983 and moved to the Corpus Christi RTA in 1986 to serve as Assistant to the General Manager.

During his tenure with the Corpus Christi RTA, Ricardo worked in varying and extensive capacities serving as Assistant to the General Manager for Contracts and Procurement; Director of Contracts and Materials Management; Director of Maintenance Services, and Director of Special Projects.

In May 2004, Ricardo was selected by the RTA Board of Directors to serve as Interim General Manager for the agency and later hired as the agency's General Manager.

Ricardo has been a productive member of the community, serving in numerous leadership posts such as Board Member of the National Archives and Historical Foundation of the American GI Forum, Vice-Chair of the Corpus Christi Arts and Cultural Commission, and President of the Houston Chapter Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans.

Ricardo and his wife, Carmen, have three wonderful daughters—Yliana, Marisa, Teresa—and have one grandchild, Andrea.

I congratulate Ricardo on his retirement and wish him and his family the best of luck during the next chapter of his life.

HONORING ROBERT BEATTY ON 50 YEARS WITH THE INDIAN RIVER LIONS CLUB

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Robert Beatty of Indian River, Michigan. Mr. Beatty has served as a member of the Indian River Lions Club for 50 years, and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring his 50 years of service to the Indian River community.

Born in Marietta, Ohio, on April 24, 1923, Robert Beatty moved to Indian River in 1946. He and his wife, Edith, will have been married 61 years this October. Together, they have raised three lovely children.

Mr. Beatty's service with the Lions Club, the world's largest service organization, is truly commendable. His first contact with the Lions Club came in 1958 at a poker game with Anthony Schneider, the founding member of the Indian River Lions Club chapter. After dis-

cussing the mission of the Lions Club, he was so enthusiastic that he decided to join the next day.

Mr. Beatty quickly rose through the ranks. After only 3 days of membership, he took on the role of treasurer. Since that time, he has held every position within the club except secretary and has been on the board of directors for all 50 years of his membership. With a reputation of being the first to volunteer for every community service project, his leadership in the Lions Club has been instrumental to their service for the Indian River community.

Mr. Beatty's community service extends beyond his activities with the Lions Club. As a former member of the Indian River school board, he worked diligently to improve education within his community. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Mr. Beatty is also a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, continuing to serve his community and assist his fellow veterans through his membership.

Madam Speaker, as Robert Beatty celebrates his 50 years of faithful service with the Indian River Lions Club, I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in thanking Mr. Beatty's for his dedicated service. Indian River is no doubt a better place because of Mr. Beatty's years of involvement in the community.

SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Respect for human rights and individual freedom is an important element of American foreign policy. Therefore, it must be the goal of the United States government to work towards enhancing human rights conditions, individual liberty and religious freedom in Vietnam. Moral imperatives such as freedom and individual rights are exceedingly important in establishing a mutually beneficial diplomatic relationship.

The current human rights situation in Vietnam is unacceptable. I am greatly concerned about state sanctioned oppression that has left numerous Vietnamese citizens helpless in the face of a government that has chosen to exercise repressive rule over a population that seeks individual, political and religious freedom. There are numerous religious and political prisoners imprisoned in Vietnam. Political prisoners are placed in conditions that are unacceptable. The international community should not sit idly by and allow this behavior to continue without condemnation.

In Vietnam, according to Human Rights Watch, "2007 was characterized by the harshest crackdown on peaceful dissent in 20 years." Additionally, since gaining membership in the World Trade Organization, it has been reported that Vietnam moved to suppress all challenges to the Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP) by arresting dozens of democracy and human rights activists, independent trade union leaders, underground publishers, and members of unsanctioned religious groups.

The government of Vietnam should not be rewarded by the United States government and the international community for stifling the

freedom of the press, arresting dissidents, and labeling religious activity as subversive. We need a bilateral relationship with Vietnam that enhances individual freedom, democracy, and freedom of speech. I will continue to work in Congress to help promote democracy and end oppression in Vietnam.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BASIL C. MARHOFFER

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and career of Mr. Basil C. Marhofer, a good friend from my home State of Kansas. Mr. Marhofer will be retiring Monday, June 30, from a successful career as a distinguished lawyer and public servant.

Mr. Marhofer's contribution of service has spanned over six decades. After graduating from Ness City High School in Ness City, Kansas, in 1942, Mr. Marhofer served his nation in the European theater in the Second World War. After returning from Europe, Mr. Marhofer enrolled in the University of Kansas Law School and graduated in 1951. He opened his first law office that same year in Ness City.

Soon afterwards, Mr. Marhofer was appointed Ness County Attorney, a position that he held until 1959. After spending a short time in Boulder, Colorado, at the University of Colorado Law School, Mr. Marhofer returned to Ness City and to his position as county attorney, where he remained until 1968. In 1971, Mr. Marhofer was elected Mayor of Ness City where he served for 8 years.

Mr. Marhofer has been actively involved in his community, including the local Masonic Lodge and Rotary International. He has held many offices in Rotary International, including District governor and director. In 1988, Mr. Marhofer was elected vice president and represented Rotary International on five continents.

Mr. Marhofer has spent his life serving his community, State, and country. I am proud to know him and to have this opportunity to recognize him. To him, serving his community is not a burden—it is a calling and a way of life. Whenever I have the opportunity to visit Ness City, Mr. Marhofer is always there, greeting me with the utmost hospitality. He is a just scholar of law and an honest public servant who sets an example for us all. I wish him the best as he enters retirement.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF WILLIAM KIDWELL

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to express congratulations and gratitude to Chief William Kidwell on the occasion of his retirement from the Geneva Police Department.

On July 1, Chief Kidwell will end a 35-year career of distinguished service to his community. He joined the Geneva Police Department in 1973 as a captain, and rose quickly through the ranks. During his 27-year tenure as chief, the department expanded from a force of 13 officers and 4 patrol cars to 8 squads of 37 officers.

Chief Kidwell is known in the department and throughout the community as a leader with high integrity. He exemplifies the devoted public service to which we all should strive.

I offer my best wishes to Chief Kidwell and his family, and I thank him for more than three decades of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 23, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall vote 438.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 438.

SCHOOL TO WATCH

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Short Pump Middle School, located in Henrico County, VA, for their recognition as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. This forum is an alliance of more than 60 educators, researchers, and officers of national associations and foundations dedicated to improving schools for young adolescents across the country. They have identified Short Pump Middle as a high-performing school that excels in many areas of education. Congratulations to the administration, teachers and students on this tremendous honor. National organizations recognize what we in Richmond already know—that Short Pump Middle is first rate. As the parent of 3 Short Pump Middle School alumni, I congratulate the teachers, parents, administrators and students on this outstanding recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN SECURITY AND PROSPERITY ENHANCEMENT ACT"

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Afghanistan-Pakistan Security and Prosperity Enhancement Act. The legislation is a national security bill aimed at protecting our homeland and those of our allies in the fight against Al-Qa'ida and the Taliban. This bill authorizes the President of the United States to designate Reconstruction

Opportunity Zones (ROZs) in Afghanistan and in certain regions of Pakistan. These ROZs will allow qualified businesses duty-free access into U.S. markets for designated products, thereby providing significant employment opportunities where none currently exist. A ROZ program could go a long way to bolster economic development in this critical region of the world where extremists have tried to exploit the lack of economic opportunities to gain recruits for their radical agenda.

The countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan are key to the fight against Al-Qa'ida and its Taliban allies. Al-Qa'ida is the group that masterminded and carried out the deadly terrorist attacks of 9/11 that took the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans. It would have had difficulty doing so if were not given safe-haven by the Taliban, then in control of the Afghan government and much of the country.

The U.S.-led effort to topple the Taliban regime and pursue Al-Qa'ida terrorists in the aftermath of 9/11 initially weakened both of these groups but there are disturbing signs that they are regrouping and strengthening, particularly along the porous Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The declassified National Intelligence Estimate on "The Terrorist Threat to the U.S. Homeland," published in July 2007, stated: "Al-Qa'ida is and will remain the most serious threat to the Homeland, as its central leadership continues to plan high-impact plots, while pushing others in extremist Sunni communities to mimic its efforts and to supplement its capabilities. We assess the group has protected or regenerated key elements of its Homeland attack capability, including: a safe haven in the Pakistan Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), operational lieutenants, and its top leadership."

More recently, the State Department's "Country Reports on Terrorism 2007," published in April 2008, noted that "Afghanistan remained threatened by Taliban and other insurgent groups and criminal gangs, some of whom were linked to [Al-Qa'ida] and terrorist sponsors outside the country." The same report also noted that "Despite the efforts of both Afghan and Pakistani security forces, instability, coupled with the Islamabad brokered ceasefire agreement in effect for the first half of 2007 along the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier, appear to have provided [Al-Qa'ida] leadership greater mobility and ability to conduct training and operational planning, particularly targeting Western Europe and the United States."

Enhanced security efforts by the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan are needed to disrupt and weaken Al-Qa'ida and the Taliban, but security measures alone will not rid them of these menacing groups—terrorists who continue to want to do us harm and are a threat to democracy and the rule of law. These extremist groups exploit the poor socioeconomic conditions, such as high unemployment, in the border areas, to gain adherents to their nefarious causes. With no meaningful alternatives, young men in particular are vulnerable to their entreaties.

Creative ways must be found to give young Pakistanis and Afghans a positive vision of the future. One such way is to create sustainable jobs in these vulnerable areas so that the promise of a decent living makes more sense than following the warped ideology of the terrorists.

The Reconstruction and Opportunity Zone legislation for Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan does just that. This legislation creates, in essence, special economic zones in these regions, enabling domestic and foreign firms to establish manufacturing enterprises that will bring thousands of good-paying jobs to the people of these areas.

As these troubled regions develop economically, they will diminish the recruiting pool of the terrorists. And as the terrorists find it more difficult to find support and protection among the local populations, they will become more vulnerable to the security forces.

HONORING LIEUTENANT DANE R.
HAYWARD OF LAKE COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Dane R. Hayward on the occasion of his retirement as Commander of the Clear Lake Area Highway Patrol. Lt. Hayward has served his community and the State of California honorably for over 30 years.

Lt. Hayward received his A.A. in Auto Technology from Ventura Community College, his B.A. in Police Science/Psychology at Lavern University and his M.A. in Counseling from the University of San Francisco.

Lt. Hayward has had an illustrious career in public service. He has implemented progressive solutions that have saved countless lives in Lake County, part of California's 151 Congressional District. He helped secure a 2003 Pedestrian Corridor grant which has resulted in zero pedestrian fatalities to date. He was able to get SR-53 and SR-20 controlled, which has also led to zero fatalities since, and the signal he was able to install at Highland Springs lowered fatalities by 50 percent. He has built the force by establishing a Senior Volunteer Program and an Explorer Program, supplementing his officers on patrol.

Lt. Hayward served as a motorcycle officer in the Central Los Angeles and West Valley offices in southern California. He then went on to become a Sergeant in south Los Angeles and Ventura and a Lieutenant in Baldwin Park, West Valley, and Clear Lake before earning the Commander position.

Lt. Hayward is known as a generous, diligent and committed public servant who never hesitates to answer the call of his community. Among many other affiliations, Lt. Hayward is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the National Rifle Association, a member of Ventura County Peace Officers Association, and a member of the California Peace Officers Association. On top of all that, Lt. Hayward has been a peer support counselor for the CHP from 1990 to the present.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Lt. Dane Hayward for his years of dedication and service on behalf of Lake County and the citizens of California. He has been a role model for anyone who wants to give back to his or her community. I join his wife Phill, their son Dane Jr., and daughter Nicole in thanking Dane and wishing him a lifetime of fulfillment.

RECOGNIZING WORLD REFUGEE
DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, last Friday was World Refugee Day, a day to reflect and address the growing problem of refugee populations worldwide.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are more than 11 million refugees living outside their countries. Another 26 million are estimated to be internally displaced due to conflict alone. I urge my colleagues to address this complex and tragic issue.

Since the beginning of civilization, populations have fled to escape violence and persecution and have found sanctuary in foreign lands. In 1951, the United Nations Refugee Convention was created in order to address this issue on an international level. The Convention is the key legal document defining who is a refugee, what their rights are, and the legal obligations of states to refugees.

Since 1951, the issue of refugees has grown both in size and in complexity. While the Convention was designed to solve the problem of World War II refugees, it has broadly extended its scope as the number and nationality of refugees dramatically grew over time. For the first time in five years, the number of refugees has increased, primarily due to a large population exodus from Iraq into neighboring countries. Other significant population outflows that have contributed to this increase include: The Central African Republic, Chad, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Somalia.

As this issue grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to address it. Today, the reasons leading populations to flee are more diverse. While in 1951 the two main causes of departure were poverty and conflict, today the causes have expanded to bad governance, climate change, and competition for scarce resources. As barriers to human mobility have fallen in recent decades, protecting refugees has become even more difficult. These new challenges make it even more crucial to find adequate and efficient ways to address these issues.

Moreover, with the increased number of refugees worldwide, many countries have started to reverse their policies on granting asylum and have begun closing their doors to vulnerable populations. As a result, refugees are forced to return to the terrible situations which they were originally trying to escape.

I believe that we can alleviate suffering and save lives if the problem is addressed globally, and in cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations, such as the United Nations. The protection of refugees is an international duty. It is the United States' duty to lead these efforts.

One of the most pressing examples of a burgeoning crisis is the Iraqi refugee crisis. Today, there are millions of displaced Iraqis both inside and outside of Iraq. Since the beginning of the Iraq war, the United States has only welcomed in 8,000 Iraqi refugees while Sweden alone has taken in 40,000. The United States has a tremendous responsibility to aid these populations. Even more, we have a specific obligation to protect our allies in Iraq

who risked their lives to help our government and our Armed Forces.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have been deeply concerned and involved in this issue. Most recently, Senator BENJAMIN L. CARDIN (D-MD), my Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL (D-MI), and I, along with 14 other Members of the House and Senate, sent a letter to President Bush questioning the Administration over delays in processing threatened Iraqis who have worked for the United States government and American organizations in Iraq. In particular, the letter urges President Bush to allow the Department of Defense to airlift Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants for expedited processing to a central processing center outside of Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me to assist not only Iraqi refugee populations but refugees across the globe. The United States, a beacon of freedom and democracy, has a longstanding tradition of providing aid and protection to refugee populations. I urge my colleagues to devote to this issue of growing refugee populations the attention and resources it needs and deserves.

IN HONOR OF DEAN CARMEN
TWILLIE AMBAR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of Dean Carmen Twillie Ambar. I join with President Richard L. McCormick and all of Rutgers University in honoring Dean Ambar for her outstanding tenure at Douglass and for her recent appointment as President of the Cedar Crest College.

During her tenure as Dean of Douglass, Dean Ambar demonstrated her commitment to the educational advancement of women by leading the fight to save Douglass College. Dedicated to women's success and leadership, Douglass is a unique institution that has enabled countless young women to receive an excellent education and fulfill their potential as leaders in public service, academia, and business.

In addition, Dean Ambar's exemplary service and dedication to Douglass was evident in her pursuit of women's global leadership. Dean Ambar spearheaded programs that showcased and promoted women's leadership skills and encouraged young women to pursue careers in math, science, and technology.

Madam Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Dean Ambar for her invaluable contributions to Douglass and the greater Rutgers University community.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE U.S.-KOREA
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 30, we will mark the one-year

anniversary since negotiators for the United States and the Republic of Korea signed the historic and landmark U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, one of the most commercially significant free trade agreements to be signed by the United States in over a decade.

The Republic of Korea and the United States are already major trading partners. South Korea has the world's 11th largest economy and stands as our 7th largest trading partner with more than \$80 billion passing between our two nations each year.

Today, Korea took a critical step toward implementing the recent agreement between the United States and Korea that will allow exports of high-quality U.S. beef to resume, based on internationally recognized standards that affirm the safety of U.S. beef.

Before the import ban, South Korea was the third largest sales market for U.S. beef, valued at over \$800 million a year. As the nation's fourth largest beef exporter, Texas would stand to benefit greatly from new opportunities in the Korean market. Under the FTA, Korea would remove tariffs of up to 40 percent levied on U.S. beef, giving U.S. ranchers an advantage over other foreign competitors.

By eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers and strengthening protections for U.S. companies, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement will expand trade and investment further. The U.S. International Trade Commission has forecast that the elimination of tariffs on U.S. goods under the U.S.-Korea FTA would grow U.S. GDP by over \$10 billion annually, upon full implementation. The agreement will also eliminate regulatory and other non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted access by U.S. farmers, manufacturers and service providers to the South Korean market.

Should the United States Congress sit idle and continue to ignore the economic potential this historic agreement offers, I assure you South Korea will not stop efforts to liberalize its trade relations with other countries—putting Americans at a disadvantage when competing abroad. We cannot afford a time-out on trade while the rest of the world marches on.

Madam Speaker, in closing, this week, we took a moment of pause on June 25, 2008, to remember the 58th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. As that conflict, out of which was born the U.S.-Korea alliance, has often been referred to as the "Forgotten War," it is our duty to honor and remember the noble sacrifices of our Korean War veterans.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial. It is June 26, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,938 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first

handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them. And it seems so sad to me, Madam Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber.

So as a small gesture, I would ask those in the Chamber who are inclined to join me for a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,938 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is June 26, 2008, 12,938 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

HONORING MONSIGNOR RICHARD O'KEEFFE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement for the RECORD. The presentation was given by Colonel John Bullington, Commander with U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, in recognition of Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe's work in the community.

PRESENTATION TO MSGR. O'KEEFFE ON JUNE 13, 2008

(By Col. John Bullington, Commander, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground)

I'd like to take a few moments to extend a very sincere tribute to a man who is a true treasure to those of us at YPG—Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe.

Since June 1978, thirty years ago this month, the Monsignor, a man of great integrity, energy and sincerity, has faithfully served YPG as Catholic chaplain. He drove from town most Sundays to celebrate mass at the post chapel and is here at least one weekday each week to make visits, perform counseling, conduct baptisms, and perform other duties carried out by a chaplain. He was instrumental in expanding our religious education program and has been an inspiration to all with whom he's come in contact.

I might also mention that Monsignor O'Keeffe is one of the most influential cheerleaders for YPG in the community. He maintains a network of contacts from both political parties, and his advice is always right on the mark. I personally value his input and welcome what he has to say. He represents a rare combination of judgment, fidelity to truth, intellectual force, and clarity of interpretation.

For thirty years, Monsignor O'Keeffe has been there without fail for the people of YPG—of any faith. We could have asked for no better friend, for no better man. Ireland's loss was definitely our gain.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CENTER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Michigan Hospital

and Health Center, UMHHC, Security and Entrance Services for receiving the 2008 Lindberg Bell Award. Bestowed annually by the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety, IAHS, the Lindberg Bell Award is given to the hospital with the best healthcare security program in the country. The IAHS has over 1,600 members and is the only healthcare security organization in the U.S. They provide valuable services to those in the field, including education and training programs. The award recognizes organizations that have vastly improved their services over the last year, and the UMHHC Security and Entrance Services should be commended for meeting this high standard.

The UMHHC Security and Entrance Services is charged with protecting hospital personnel and property, in addition to providing excellent customer service. This is no small feat, considering that there are over 10,000 people in the hospital at any given time. Their leadership skills and innovative spirit have been demonstrated through the development of a badge system for the Mott Children's Hospital. Under this program, all visitors to the hospital must check in at a station to receive a badge to wear during their stay at the hospital. This system resulted in an increase in security and has spread to other sections of the hospital. I am confident the UMHHC will continue to provide a high level of security for patients.

As a Lindberg Bell Awardee, it is my hope that the UMHHC Security and Entrance Services will continue to serve as an example to the community and its peers that the security of our patients should not be overlooked. Our hospitals open their doors each day to diagnose and care to the citizens of our community. It is imperative that while serving this mission our doctors and nurses are not distracted by outside issues. By going the extra mile, UMHHC is ensuring that every person who walks through their doors will know that both high quality care and safety comes first. Again, I commend UMHHC for their effort and tireless dedication to its patients. To the doctors, nurses and support staff, I congratulate each one of you for being part of a health system who takes the mission of caring for patients to the next level. Congratulations UMHHC on winning the Lindberg Bell Award.

HONORING GEORGETTE BROWN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues my pride in Georgette Brown. Georgette is a dedicated public servant, a good friend, and a stalwart guardian of the American election process.

Georgette is retiring after 25 years of elected service as County Clerk in Josephine County, Oregon. As all of you know, to be elected to a position repeatedly for over two and a half decades, a person must be extremely well liked, dedicated, competent, and a proven leader. Those attributes truly personify Georgette Brown.

In her career, Georgette has brought innovation and modernization to the Office of Jo-

sephine County Clerk since assuming office in 1983. She oversaw significant transitions that took the county from hand-counted paper ballots to punch cards to optical scan ballots, which are now in their third generation. She flawlessly facilitated the change from voting at polling places to a 100 percent vote-by-mail system today. Georgette has been a true professional as County Clerk, and I have relied on her many times to understand how proposed legislation might affect the local elections process.

Georgette has continually modernized the recordkeeping and reporting functions of the County Clerk's office, now utilizing the Internet extensively. She has created a user friendly office where you can easily obtain passports and other public documents. As County Clerk, Georgette also performs marriages.

To accomplish what Georgette has as County Clerk would be considered remarkable in and of itself, but Georgette also excelled at being a loving wife, mother, and now a grandmother. Her public service and leadership has gone beyond her elected position to include her long service in Rotary and Zonta. Georgette has served as president of both of those organizations dedicated to serving others. Georgette serves on the executive board of the International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials, and Treasurers. In her retirement, she plans to continue her international involvement in the elections process.

For most of her adult life, Georgette was at the side of her husband, Larry, who was tragically taken from us all too soon a few years ago when a long battle with cancer ended his life. Larry was, in every sense of the word, a great American, patriot, and one who accomplished great things. Larry and Georgette were a very effective team working to better their community. When Larry passed away, it took great courage for Georgette to carry on without him, but she has been up to this ultimate personal test. She has kept the flame of public service burning brightly for which the Browns were so well known.

Madam Speaker, with all of her significant accomplishments, Georgette would assuredly point with most pride to the two great daughters that she and Larry raised, Monique and Martie. Monique is married to Shane Anderson and they have presented Georgette with her first grandchild, Taylor Anderson.

Even though Georgette Brown is retiring from public office, she will always be active in serving others, and she remains committed to making her country and her community a better place in which to live and work. Madam Speaker, we may pass laws, but people like Georgette Brown make those laws work for all of us. Although she will be missed as County Clerk, she can leave that phase of her public service knowing that she gave it her all and she made a real difference. With public service such a part of her moral fiber, we know that she will soon be serving in new and innovative ways and continuing to improve the lives of others.

I highly value Georgette's service and her friendship. I ask you to join me in honoring this very special woman.

NAAYI YOUTH PROGRAM—ENCOURAGING MORE MINORITIES TO ENTER HEALTH PROFESSIONS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I want to acknowledge and thank my good friend and colleague Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. As the only doctor in the CBC, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN—we all look to DONNA for her advice and her insight on critical health issues that affect our communities.

Whether it is finding ways to address racial and ethnic health disparities, helping our health care system provide culturally competent and culturally relevant care, or helping encourage young people, like you all, to enter the health professions, we rely on DONNA to guide us.

I want to thank her for her leadership and for helping to organize this event today.

My background is as a psychiatric social worker. I know how important it is to have people of color in the health professions; people that can relate to their patients and who can provide help and advice in a way that is relevant for them.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, I have been working with my colleagues to increase funding to increase diversity in the health professions.

This year I'm pleased to report that we have developed a bill that would provide nearly \$104 million to increase diversity training programs in the health professions. That's an increase of \$34 million from last year.

These funds will go towards programs and institutions that help train minority health professionals and provide scholarship support to help defray the costs of an education.

As we move through the appropriations process I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we keep and grow the money for these programs.

THE MEDICAL DEVICE SAFETY ACT: PROVIDING CRITICAL CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Medical Device Safety Act of 2008, which has been introduced today by my colleagues Representatives FRANK PALLONE and HENRY WAXMAN. I am proud to be original cosponsor of this legislation, which will restore consumer protections that were eliminated in the Supreme Court's recent Riegel v. Medtronic decision.

The Riegel v. Medtronic decision ignored congressional intent and disregarded 30 years of experience under the 1976 Medical Device amendments, during which FDA regulation and State tort law worked together to protect consumers from dangerous devices. The Riegel decision gives total immunity to device manufacturers who fail to adequately warn

consumers about device risks. It is now the responsibility of Congress to correct the Court's dangerous mistake.

Patients who are injured by medical devices often suffer permanent, debilitating injuries or even death. They need the ability to hold the negligent medical device manufacturer accountable for their injuries. If not, private health insurance companies and Medicare or Medicaid would be left footing the bill to pay for those injuries; and, ultimately, the taxpayer pays for the medical device manufacturer's mistake.

This narrow piece of legislation is necessary to address the Riegel decision and to ensure that it is not then applied to afford total immunity to medical device manufacturers throughout the country. It also will make certain that patients injured by medical devices can have their claims heard by a judge and jury and will prevent courts from summarily dismissing claims without ever hearing the facts. Finally, it restores congressional intent by explicitly stating that actions for damages under State law are preserved.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring and enacting the Medical Device Safety Act so that we can restore long-standing consumer protections.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. due to my attendance at the funeral of a personal friend in my district.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted the following ways on the below listed rollcall votes: 449—"yea"; 450—"yea"; 451—"yea"; 452—"yea"; 453—"yea"; 454—"nay"; 455—"nay"; 456—"yea"; 457—"yea"; 458—"nay"; 459—"yea"; 460—"yea"; 461—"yea."

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this bill because of the need to protect middle-income families from a massive tax increase that will hit them if we do not act to adjust the Alternative Minimum Tax, or AMT.

In technical terms, the bill would extend for one year AMT relief for nonrefundable personal credits and increases the AMT exemption amount to \$69,950 for joint filers and \$46,200 for individuals. In real-world terms, that means it will prevent a tax increase for more than 28,000 Colorado households that otherwise would be required to pay more in Federal income tax when returns are due next year. And so, Mr. Speaker, the bill overall is properly focused on tax relief for middle class families—a goal I strongly support.

Some of our colleagues say they will oppose the bill because it includes provisions

that would close loopholes and make other changes in the tax laws in order to offset this tax relief. They evidently are not concerned about the fact that the federal budget is deeply into deficit spending.

I do have some reservations about how the bill seeks to provide AMT tax relief without making our Federal deficit worse. But I do not take a relaxed attitude to our fiscal problems, and think it is better to avoid adding to them—and that is the purpose of the offset provisions of the bill.

One such provision would revise current law so investment fund managers would no longer pay capital gains rates on the income they receive for investment management services income that does not reflect a reasonable return on their own invested capital. This change was approved by the House last year in H.R. 3996, which I supported. In addition, the bill would exclude from the domestic production deduction the gross receipts derived from the sale, exchange or other disposition of oil, natural gas, or any primary product thereof for large integrated oil companies. And it would freeze at 6 percent—the rate under current law—the domestic production deduction for income of other taxpayers with respect to oil, natural gas or any primary product thereof. This is also not new—it is a scaled-back version of an outright repeal of this deduction for all oil, natural gas or any primary product thereof that passed the House last year.

And the bill would prevent foreign multinational corporations incorporated in tax haven countries from avoiding tax on income earned in the United States by routing their income through structures in which a United States subsidiary corporation makes a deductible payment to a country with which the United States has a tax treaty before ultimately repatriating these earnings in the tax haven country. This is a scaled-back version of a previously approved by the House of Representatives as part of H.R. 2419. Further, the bill includes a proposal that was in the president's latest budget request that will require institutions that make payments to merchants in settlement of payment card transactions to file an information return with the IRS.

These provisions are not the only or perhaps even the best way to offset the revenue costs of providing a temporary fix to the AMT—but the bill's opponents have suggested no alternative except to cut unspecified amounts of spending in unspecified parts of the budget or to further add to the "debt tax" that has already been imposed on our children (and their children) by the irresponsible policies of the last seven years.

The Senate will have to consider the legislation further, and it is possible that these provisions will be revised. But, in the meantime, the bottom line is that today we have the opportunity to provide tax relief to hundreds of thousands of middle-class families in Colorado. I think that is something I think the House should do without delay, and that is why I am voting for this bill.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I offer my support for the passage of both amendments which constitute H.R. 2642, the Iraq/Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations. Our service personnel serving abroad and here at home deserve the full support of this Congress. After months of partisan posturing by the Democrat Leadership, this bill finally puts the needs of our troops above the needs of politicians.

This bipartisan agreement provides \$161.8 billion for the Department of Defense (DoD) to carry out the will of this nation. This funding pays the salaries and benefits of military and DoD civilian personnel, the fuel for their vehicles, and ammunition for their guns. This funding also takes care of their loved ones left behind.

In addition to providing for our service personnel in combat, this important legislation expands the GI education benefits for our veterans and extends unemployment insurance. Although unrelated to the primary purpose of this legislation, I agree that these are vital priorities to the American people.

In December 1943 when Kansan Harry Colmery wrote the guiding principles that would become the GI Bill of Rights, the promise was clear. Veterans returning from war would be provided with free education and a host of other benefits as a token of America's thanks for their service. Today, returning veterans receive many of these same benefits, but the value of the educational benefits has fallen due to the rapid rise in the cost of higher education.

The important educational expansion to the GI Bill found in H.R. 2642 renews the promise first proposed by Harry Colmery. Service members in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world fighting the Global War on Terror deserve our support while in uniform and when their duty is complete. As a Kansan, I am proud of the work Mr. Colmery started in 1943 and the work Congress continues today with the passage of this legislation.

This bill provides increased educational benefits for all members of the military who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001. The new benefit includes tuition reimbursement equal to the established cost regularly charged for in-state tuition at a public institution of higher education, a housing allowance, and a stipend for supplies and equipment for four academic years. The amount of the benefit is determined by the length of time, after September 11, 2001, the service member was on active duty. This provision also allows educational benefits to be transferred to the spouse or child of a service member.

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 5740, which provided the base concepts of this GI Bill expansion provision, I am very pleased that these benefits were included in H.R. 2642. Thankfully these much deserved benefits are not linked to a tax increase on small businesses, which was the case on an earlier version of the Iraq/Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations.

In addition to providing funding for our troops fighting the Global War on Terror and

valuable educational benefits to our military veterans, this legislation includes an extension of unemployment insurance for 13 weeks in every state through March 31, 2009. Contrary to previous versions that had been considered by this House, this provision incorporates a 20-week work requirement in order to qualify for benefits. This work requirement is essential to ensure that people do not gain unemployment benefits for a longer period of time than they worked.

Mr. Speaker, this is a proud day. I am privileged to support this important legislation to honor our commitments to those in uniform and our veterans. They deserve nothing less. I hope all my colleagues will support both amendments to the H.R. 2642.

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE
ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL TO
COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED
FORCES**

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the integration of the United States Armed Forces.

And I thank the distinguish Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. SKELTON, for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Throughout the course of our Nation's history, the men and women of our Armed Services have defended our liberties with bravery, honor, and sacrifice. But because our Nation racially segregated its military prior to 1948, generations of African Americans served our Nation with the knowledge that they were fighting abroad for the very freedoms that were frequently denied to them at home. Despite this injustice, not only did African Americans serve honorably to fight for all our freedoms, they did so with the dignity and bravery that earned many of them our Nation's top military honors.

Of the many units to serve with distinction, I particularly want to recognize the Tuskegee Airmen that organized at Moton Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, many of whom I would hope could be a part of this ceremony in the Rotunda. Over the course of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen became one of the most highly decorated units in the Armed Forces. These brave pilots destroyed more than 1,000 German aircraft while accumulating an unprecedented record of flying more than 200 bomber escort missions over central and southern Europe without the loss of a single bomber to enemy aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen returned home with some of our Nation's highest military honors including 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, and 14 Bronze Stars. But they also returned home to a racially segregated America.

One of the many important milestones toward achieving an integrated America occurred on July 26, 1948 when President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981. This important order, which will be recognized under this resolution, ordered there be equality of treatment with all persons in the Armed Services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. Even though it took many years to accomplish the complete integration of the Armed Services, it was Executive Order 9981 that began the process and it is that event, among others, that I hope we will honor in the Capitol Rotunda next month.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring the attention of this House to House Concurrent Resolution 297, a resolution I introduced with my friend and colleague Mr. MEEK of Florida on February 14 of this year. This resolution also recognizes the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the integration of the United States Armed Forces. I look forward to the consideration of this or any other similar resolution honoring this important event in our history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote on the

evening of Wednesday, the 25th of June. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall vote No. 460, the H.R. 3195, the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008, which restores the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. I deeply regret that I was unable to vote in support of an issue which I feel very strongly about. And I remain proud of this body, under the leadership of the Speaker and Majority leader, in guaranteeing that tens of millions of Americans with disabilities now enjoy equal rights under the law while being empowered to better our nation with their incredible, inherent talents without fear of discrimination or bias.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION
OF SUFFOLK LIFE NEWSPAPERS
TO LONG ISLAND**

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate a sad occasion in my district: Suffolk Life Newspaper will publish its last edition this week. David Willmott published the first edition of what would become Suffolk Life on August 17, 1961.

His paper, which started out serving a small community in Suffolk County, eventually became the largest weekly paper east of the Mississippi. For more than 40 years, Dave Willmott covered the local issues that didn't receive attention elsewhere. He had a style all his own—with political views that I often disagreed with. But he took on the issues others wouldn't touch and he and his staff took great pride in the service they provided to our community with the newspaper. They held those of us who serve in public office to a high standard with rigorous questionnaires and biting weekly columns.

Suffolk Life will shut its doors, but the impact of Dave Willmott's enterprise will live on long after the paper is gone.

Madam Speaker, Suffolk Life will be missed but not forgotten. I'm proud to honor this Long Island institution on the House floor.